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LETTERS FROM THE GLEN

Glen Clunie, Braemar, Scotland
1839 — 1871

Edited by

Wendy McLeod
Peggy (Fullerton) Farr
Robin Marlatt Farr

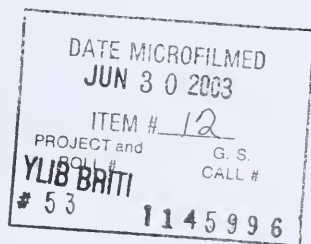


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Cover illustration - The River Dee. Engraving by A. F. Lydon, 19th century.

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In addition Mr. Duff applied his knowledge of Braemar events to fill in the background to our letters. We are indebted to him for his patience in reading and checking this manuscript and in answering our many sassenach queries. He not only brought our Scottish heritage alive, he also showed us the famous hospitality of the Braemar region.

We would also like to recognise the interest and assistance provided by **Mrs. Fairlie M. Sharp** and her mother **Mrs. Annie (Abercrombie) Brown**. Fairlie and her mother are descendants of the Abercrombies of Glen Clunie. They both currently live in the village of Braemar.



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INTRODUCTION

The letters in this book were written from Glen Clunie in Scotland, to Jane Abercrombie Fullerton over the period from 1839 to 1871. Most of these letters were written by Angus McIntosh, a man who lived his entire life in Glen Clunie. In addition to his letter writing, he was also an intrepid diarist and something of a nineteenth-century statistician for he also kept a daily weather report from 1846 to 1873 and seems to have functioned as an unofficial Registrar of births and deaths for the Braemar area.

Angus McIntosh led a vigorous life. He could turn his hand to gardening, bridge and dyke building, thatching and sheep shearing. He also pursued three separate and very seasonal occupations. In early December he opened his school in Glen Clunie where there were then many families. (We speculate that it was as her teacher that he first knew Jane Abercrombie.) In the Spring he was contracted by the Invercauld Estate to repair the road that ran through Glen Clunie from Braemar to the Spittal of Glenshee, a 15 mile stretch. By the third week of July his services were transferred to game watching for some ten weeks. In October he returned to the repair of the road and in December he commenced school again.

As we read his letters, Angus becomes our friend just as he was Jane's life-long friend. With his sly wit, discerning eye and his deep and abiding faith, he continues over the years to observe his neighbours and to report on the activities in Glen Clunie to Jane many years after she has left what Angus calls her "native vale". A few of the letters are from other acquaintances, and relatives, during the same period. Altogether they form a remarkable record of life in the Glen seen mostly through the insightful and observant eyes of Angus McIntosh.

All of the letters in this book were carefully preserved and reread many times during her lifetime by Jane Abercrombie Fullerton. As a young woman Jane Abercrombie left the Glen by eloping in 1839 with a young seaman based at Stonehaven named Alexander Fullerton. Alexander who came from Cruden and pursued a life at sea, had come to hunt in the Glen and succeeded in carrying "off some of our choice Game" in Angus' words. In marrying Alexander Fullerton, Jane left an ardent local suitor, her cousin John Abercrombie, the favoured nephew of her father. As you will see in the letters old Angus McIntosh has a far less favourable view of "suitor John."

Jane's father James Abercrombie was a substantial sheep farmer who leased a considerable amount of land in the Braemar area from the laird of Invercauld. Abercrombie never married and his only child was his natural daughter, Jane. James Abercrombie, who is buried in the old Crathie Kirkyard was described by the Aberdeen Journal at the time of his death as "much respected as the most extensive sheep farmer in the head of this county." James Abercrombie throughout his life remained caring about his daughter whom he acknowledged and brought up in his household. He never lost interest in her well being.

Although contrary to her father's wishes Jane Abercrombie had chosen well by running away with her young seaman, Alexander Fullerton. Within a year Alexander was captain of the brig "Employ." The wife of a ship's captain must be prepared to travel and to live alone. Jane Fullerton lived the first year at the little port of Stonehaven a comfortable 50 miles from her birthplace. The following year she moved to the large English port of Sunderland and for the next twenty years she regularly brought her family back to Glen Clunie for summer visits. The downside of this is that Angus never feels the need to entertain us with the summer doings of the people of the Glen.

INTRODUCTION

Jane's mother, Jean Bowman, was a daughter of William Bowman of Auctavin a farm in nearby Crathie. Jean Bowman continued to live in the area and we believe that she eventually married Charles Cattenach. Her daughter, Jane, (the recipient of these letters) appears to have been raised entirely by her natural father, James Abercrombie. Not much is known about Jean Bowman and there is only the occasional reference to her in these letters.

Several of the later letters are from Jane's cousin, James Bowman, and his is a special story. The Bowmans were Farquharson men and keepers at Ballochbuie. James Bowman was called back from Balloch Castle in Dumbartonshire to be keeper of Ballochbuie when his father grew too old. In 1868 Queen Victoria leased the forest and its keeper from the Laird of Invercauld. Thus began his long association with the Queen, who commissioned a watercolour portrait of James Bowman for her book, *The Highlanders of Scotland*. James Bowman was in his seventies when he met a tragic death and the Queen erected a tablet at the site of his death in Ballochbuie forest in 1885.

Although Angus McIntosh's life in the Glen seems to us now a hard and cramped existence, he was a remarkably literate man. Reading his letters we catch something of the breadth of knowledge and clarity of thought of a man whose life was spent largely in hard physical labour. (A tribute to the great network of Kirk schools established by John Knox and the quality of education available in Scotland when Angus was a child.) But Glen Clunie always remained his home and the great events of his time swirled past the Glen and do not enter these letters. This would be a record of the commonplace, of the small world that surrounded Angus in Glen Clunie and of the ordinary people who inhabited it with him. That world is far away now. Today the Glen is a lonely, almost empty place, and the activity and bustle which Angus knew is gone.

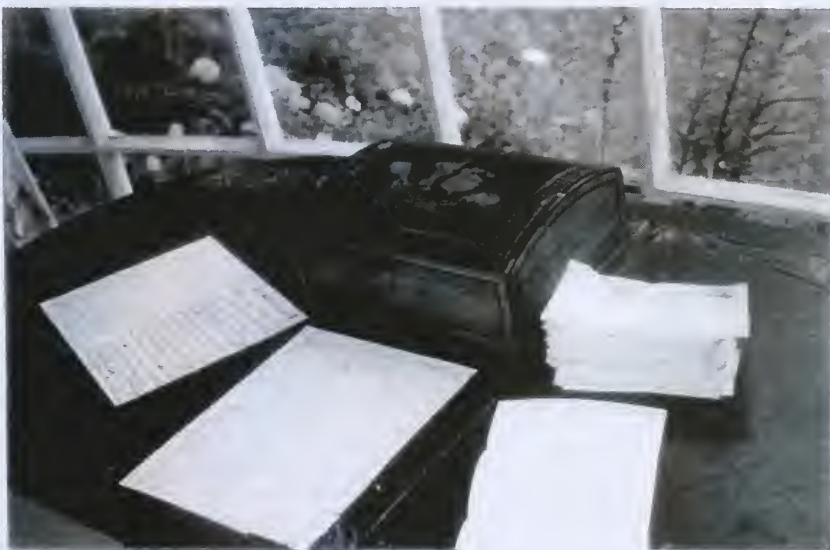
The largest event of Angus' period was the arrival of Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort at Balmoral. Angus describes the coming of the Queen using the same sharp wit which he does for the doings of the local people. They are all grist for the active pen of Angus McIntosh.

NOTES

A few notes for the reader . . .

Although the work of transcribing and annotating these letters sent to Jane Abercrombie Fullerton so many years ago was very much a family undertaking, it was Jane's Great, Great Granddaughter, Wendy McLeod, who first became intrigued by the Glen Clunie story and led the way back to the Glen, both in our imaginations and then by personal visit.

The letters themselves, neatly folded and carefully preserved, rested inside a small inlaid casket with the Fullerton family which came into our possession some years ago. As we read the letters we stepped back into a small and almost forgotten world.



We have retained the spelling found in the original letters. These letters have been proofed carefully and any spelling or grammatical errors are likely to be faithful transcriptions of the original. There is also a glossary of Scottish words at the end of this book.

In the text of the letters you will see characters such as + or =. Angus did not make much use of punctuation but he would toss in = or + sign. He seemed to use them as an exclamation point. Where you see a series of dashes -----, this represents an illegible section of the letter with the number of dashes approximately equal to the number of missing characters.

In the mid-1800's the place names were undergoing a transformation from Gaelic to Anglicised form. We have retained the spelling of the original letters. For instance "Glen

NOTES

Clunnie" instead of the modern "Glen Clunie." A full glossary of place names with descriptions can be found in the Appendices.

In these letters the reader will find that people are referred to by the name of their land holding. For instance, Alexander Abercrombie is referred to as Coldrach which is the name of his farm. We are sure that other names are local nicknames such as Robbie Gow (probably Robbie Smith) and Craigie John who we believe to be John MacDonald from Craigview, Inverey.

The reader also needs to take care when interpreting the letters of Angus McIntosh. He has a sharp and elaborate sense of humour. Hyperbole and embellishment are two of his best used tools, and we will try to footnote any such "Angusisms" which are not obvious.

The editors would be pleased to correspond with anyone who wishes to exchange information on Braemar and may be contacted at

*Wendy McLeod
Hinson's Island, Box HM 722, Bermuda, HMCX
email: wmcLeod@ibl.bm*

*Robin & Peggy Farr
817 Caldwell Avenue, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, L5H 1Y8
email: Robin.Farr@Sympatico.ca*

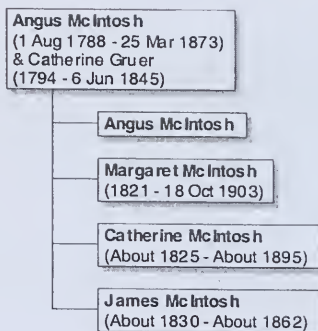
MAP OF GLEN CLUNIE



This map is based on information in The Place Names of the Upper Deeside, by Adam Watson & Elizabeth Allan, Aberdeen University Press, 1984.

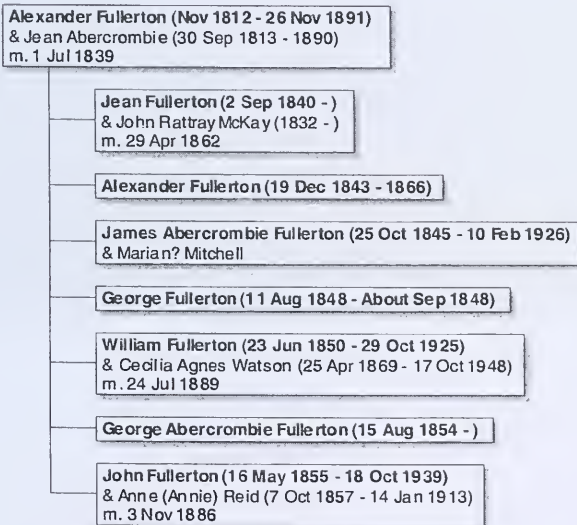
CAST OF CHARACTERS

Household of Angus McIntosh



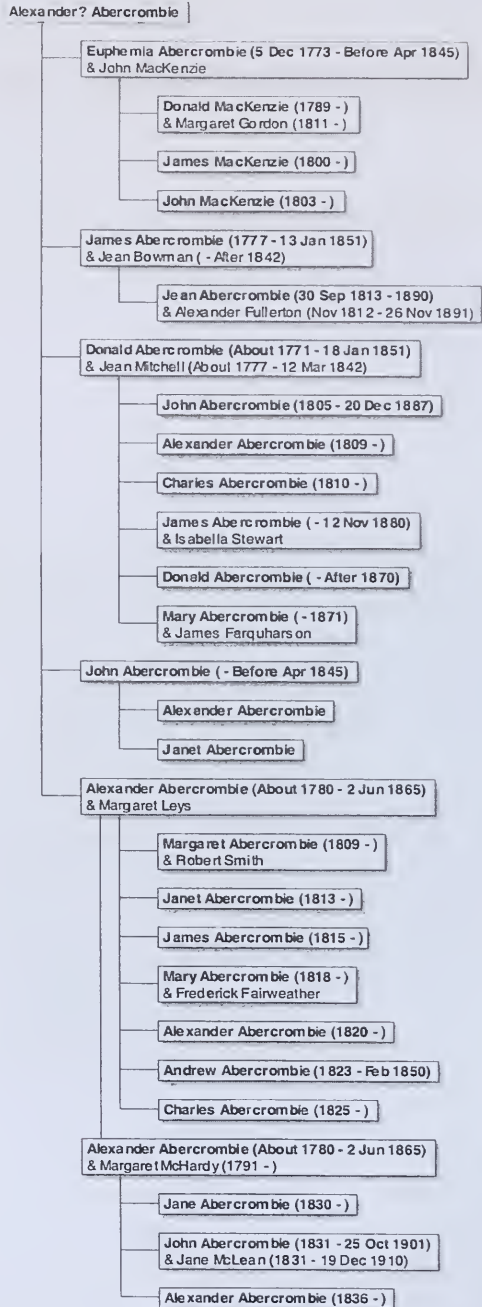
CAST OF CHARACTERS

Household of Captain Fullerton and Jane Abercrombie



CAST OF CHARACTERS

Abercrombie Family





Glen Clunie today, photo by Wendy McLeod.



The parish church in Braemar.

1839

In our family, the story has always been told that Jane Abercrombie of Cornalarick, Glen Clunie, made a “runaway match” with Alexander Fullerton, a mariner from the home port of Stonehaven. Our impression is that Alexander came to the Glen with friends to hunt. He met and fell in love with Jane who was then twenty-five years old and living with her father, James Abercrombie. Mr. Abercrombie was a man in his early sixties, a prosperous sheep farmer, who had never married. He had no sons to inherit his considerable wealth. He treated one of his numerous nephews, John Abercrombie, with exceptional favouritism. We expect that Abercrombie had hoped that his favourite nephew John would soon marry his only child and natural daughter Jane.

Meanwhile, just across the Clunie Water at Ault Mhait lived our letter writer, Angus McIntosh, who was fifty-one years old at that time. Angus was a good friend, as well as neighbour, of James Abercrombie and, we believe, had taught Jane in the school which was one of his several varied enterprises. Old Angus had quite a different view of “suitor John.” As you will see from the letters, Angus feels suitor John is poor material, worthy of scant sympathy, Alexander Fullerton on the other hand is constantly referred to as “my friend.” We often speculate on Angus’ role in the elopement — innocent bystander or crafty manipulator?

The church records, shown below, indicate that Jane and Alexander had their banns proclaimed in Stonehaven in June of this year and were duly married in the church at Braemar the following month. Whether or not this truly was an elopement, or simply a marriage that met with the thunderous disapproval of Jane’s father, only the people living in the Glen in 1839 would know for certain. But of one thing we are certain: it was probably the most talked about event of that summer.

1839 Register of Marriages, Parish of Dunnottar, Kincardine
*June 2nd Alexander Fullerton in this Parish and Jane Abercrombie in the
Parish of Crathie and Braemar had their banns of marriage regularly
proclaimed and were thereafter married.*

1839 Register of Marriages, Parish of Braemar, Aberdeenshire
*Alexander Fullerton parish of Dunotter and Jean Abercrombie
Corrynalaric¹ in this parish were lawfully married on the 1st July
Eighteen hundred and thirty nine years.*

¹ Cornalarick, a farm at the top of Glen Clunie leased by James Abercrombie from the estate of Invercauld

Addressed to: Mrs A. Fullerton, Stonehaven

Ault Mhait 21th Octr 1839

— It is with pleasure yet with some degree of nervousness that I thus attempt to write to one so far removed from that state of life in which we formed our acquaintance and more so when I recollect that you are now experienced by travel. However, you shall just have it in the old Glen Clunnie style. Meantime, I must say that I am no less grateful for that and delighted with both your letter & the complement of books sent me. But some time there is so many things crowding on my mind which I would fondly communicate to you that I am at a loss to know where to begin —

— Allow me therefore in the first place to inform you of all our well being, as also of all your friends here. We have had a very wet season so that your workers on Cairnwell remains in a worse state than that in which you left them, when you bad that Noss deue. The crops here are rather better than last year — the bear² & potatoes are good but the oats are a poor crop and not half cut down. We had a good market here, your Father got £1.5.6 per head for his widders³ and £8 per head for the stots⁴ — furthermore that he carried off all the first prizes at the Competition and as to their proceedings over the water they are the same as formerly = (tug rug=)⁵.

I find by your letter that you have heard of Jas. Coutts death — you wish to know the circumstances under which he died — it is with painful feeling that I relate his departure. You know he was my confidant correspondent — However he reached here soon after leaving you and on the Tuesday following brought his Box & hardware to my house on purpose to have them taken from the packing box & get them arranged into his travelling box — I did so to the best of my limited knowledge — then commenced the sell when each of us made a small purchase. Stopt that night in my house. Next day went to Donald McHardy Ellenfearns funeral. On Thursday carried the box to Cornalarick. Sold seven p. worth on Friday. M.M.⁶ sent him to Castletown. He became unwell, took to bed on coming home on Saturday was very ill overnight, was much tossed lost ability of arms and limbs but retained his faculty of mind. Was sensible that death was near. Donald attended him overnight. He tells me that at intervals he prayed fervently, at four o'clock the whole frame was giving way visibly, when we was hastily called before reaching, the organ of speech had forever ceased to do office — soon after, like as a child falling asleep in its mother's arms — he fell asleep on Jesus and died without a struggle — (Sabbath) your Father shed tears like a child — on Wednesday his remains was committed to the earth in the burial ground (Crathie).

You spoke of getting some cranberries. I am sorry to say that your letter was three weeks after date before it reached me so that after Margaret searched a whole day — gathered only a half a pint that same in not good condition. The fact is there was little or no crop of fruit here this season = Your friend⁷ also wishes to know the opinion generally entertained of him here. I must say in truth that since I parted with you both in Cornalarick neither your own name nor that of his has sounded in my ears from that side of the water. Young Donald⁸ alone is now my cronnie — he was proud of your letter,

² Barley

³ Young castrated male sheep

⁴ Young castrated ox or bullock

⁵ Tug o' war

⁶ Mary Mitchell, housekeeper for Mr. James Abercrombie

⁷ Refers to Jane's husband, Alexander Fullerton

⁸ Donald Abercrombie, a cousin of Jane's

speaks well of Mr. Fullerton & would find pleasure in continuing the communication — but is still at variance with M. He goes to Bruceton over winter. Will write you from thence and if once the penny postage⁹ was come into operation should God meet to spare us, you shall not fail to know all the transactions of this place if you shall only say that you will read them. It is my sole opinion that Catherine¹⁰ will be off to Stonehaven to hear from your own mouth, at same time to congratulate you on your coasting voyage which you have described very particularly — you spoke of getting a place to Margaret¹¹ you will delay it until you will get notice from us when she will be free. I would have wrote you sooner but Donald is sending you a pheasant and would not allow me to write until he got it ready.

The first part of my letter was wrote two weeks ago in which I speak of the crop not being cut — It is now all cut but little of it carried, the weather still continues rainnie. The potatoes is secured, but no peats come home this season — I will not therefore bid you come to spend a winter evening with us — if we live to see another season we shall have no bride in our moss — it's nae lucky.

Truly yours
A.M.I.

⁹ In 1840 Britain became the first country to introduce postage stamps

¹⁰ Most probably Angus' daughter, although his wife is also Catherine

¹¹ Margaret McIntosh, one of Angus' two daughters

Addressed to: Mrs Captn. A. Fullerton, Stonehaven

Ault Mhait 9th Decr 1839

Dear Mrs. Fullerton -

- You will be surprised at my so often troubling you with my letters but I hope you will freely overlook our anxiety when I say that now is the time when your presence, used in a great degree, to cheer our fireside - the fond recollection which is fresh in our minds thus enduceth us to speak to you, tho absent, being denied your presence. Having wrote you sometime ago, there is little to speak of at present. We are all in our ordinary state of health - though not without our crops for we want in a great measure our usual rousing fires that used to combat with the frost and drive it from our hollows - the times are getting dull with us - the sheep are all off and none but Laveral - John Thomson who is farm servant in Cornalarick - Jannet McHardy & Thomson has followed each other to this place again - Jean Watt is in Coryaltie - no other change is among the fouk = Alex McIntosh - tailor - and Hellen Grant joined hands past week - the bride was in a thriving way. Mr. Cameron, teacher, Inverey with the help of his servant maid has acted the domonie¹² deposed & is gone. There has been no deaths here since I wrote you. Duncan Abercrombie is an object of pity - having lost all his faculties - McKenzie, blacksmith, is not expected to hold out long. Your Uncle's wife is very poorly, all other friends are well at present.

I believe in my last, I spoke to you of a stuffed pheasant which Donald had procured for you & wished me to delay writing until he would send it to me on purpose I would convey it to you. But he wrote me last week saying that after the bird had been stuffed it had by some means been destroyed. He bids me also to say that he is endeavouring to get another, he also means to write to you from Brucetown.

I believe there is no particulars here worth writing at present - But if you have any wish at any time to know how matters is going on here, we shall at all times find pleasure in communicating the same to your Ladyship - meantime I truly wish the communication to be mutual to which if your Ladyship seems agreeable, we all shall feel happy.

Oh my Dear Lady, I made a woeful omission in my last to you - while running over the deaths - I entirely omitted to tell you of Eppie's Rover - one morning early in August Rover, as was his custom, went to take his morning ramble, but he never returned. How he came by his death is as yet a mystery. But Eppie¹³ mourned many days.

I must now finish by saying that all my family begs their warmest wishes to you, Catherine in particular along with me begs her best respects to you and Mr. Fullerton = not forgetting (the Boy in the Box) we also say you beg to be remembered to Mr. Ogilvie who by his amiable disposition, the short time he was among us, endeared some of us to him. We hope he will as Mr. Fullerton did come a sporting to our hills & carry off some of our Choice Game¹⁴.

Remember me in great kindness to Mr. Fullerton. I will return the books by and by - hope you are not wearying for them - have the goodness to write us soon

- and oblige -

Dear Madam

yours truly

A. McIntosh

¹² School teacher or clergyman

¹³ Elspeth, a farm servant living at Jane's old house Cornalarick, Rover must have been one of the Cornalarick sheep dogs

¹⁴ Refers to Jane's elopement with Alexander Fullerton

= Oh my Dear Lady, I made a wofull
 omission in my last to you - while running
 over the deaths - I entirely omitted to tell you
 of Epiphias Rover - one morning early in
 August Rover as was his custom went to
 take his morning ramble but he never
 returned. How he came by his death is as
 yet a mystery. But Epiphias mourned
 many days - I must now finish
 by saying that all my family beg those
 warmest wishes for Father in particular
 along with me. Begs her best respects
 to you & Mr Guleston - not forgetting
 (the boy in the boat) we also beg you
 be remembered to Mr Ogilvie
 who by his amiable disposition & short
 time he was among us endeared some of us
 to him - we hope he will, as Mr Guleston did
 come - departing to our hills & carry off
 some of our choice game

Remember me ^{me} with great kindness - to
 Mr Guleston - I will return the
 books by & by. hope you are not weary-
 = ing for them - have the good bye to wish us soon
 and adieu

Dear Madam
 yours truly
 J. M. Smith



Cottage scene similar to Ault Mhàit

1840

1840 was a year that shaped Britain forever. On February 10th 1840, Queen Victoria, who had ascended the Throne three years earlier, married the German Prince Albert of Saxe Coburg. This event was noted in distant Glen Clunie, but the local inhabitants of nearby Braemar had no idea of the eventual impact that Victoria and Albert would have on their remote highland district. Back in Glen Clunie, on the very day of the Queens' wedding, Angus writes to Jane Fullerton of Stonehaven.

James Abercrombie, Jane's father, still will not speak of his only daughter's marriage to Alexander Fullerton. Jane in Stonehaven is learning that being a seaman's wife means the opportunity to travel but also means dealing with loneliness. In order to cheer her and to keep her in touch with "her Glen," Angus writes of the births, marriages and deaths in the Parish. It was a habit he was to continue to the end of his correspondence.

A beautiful Scottish spring, however, does not reconcile James Abercrombie to his new son-in-law, and at the end of July Angus is still trying to soften him on this point. By September Jane Fullerton has a baby daughter, and plans are being made to move to from Stonehaven to Sunderland in England. In a large and important port such as Sunderland Alexander Fullerton will be able to greatly advance his maritime career. The Fullertons move to Monkwearmouth in Sunderland.

In Glen Clunie Angus McIntosh's eldest son, Angus, leaves for Aberdeen and Angus reports on a James Emslie leaving for America. Glen Clunie had about 150 inhabitants at this time. By the end of this span of letters in 1871, the Glen will be virtually empty.

Register of Baptisms, Parish of Fetteresso, Kincardine.
*October 9th 1840, Alexander Fullerton Seaman, had a daughter by his wife
Jean Abercrombie, born 2nd September and baptised 9th October 1840
named Jean. Witnessed by Robert Ross Saddler, and Thomas Davidson
Shoemaker.*

Addressed to: Mrs Capt. A. Fullerton, Stonehaven

Ault Mhait

10th Feby /1840

My Dear Friend

I received your kind and very entertaining letters on Sabbath 2nd ist¹⁵. and I assure you it gave us all the more pleasure as we had concluded that something in my former letters had given offence which gave me much uneasiness — but now am satisfied — we was all much delighted with your relating of your voyage to the North. Particularly as you are so very distinct on every point — but the last part of relation drew from us all a hearty laugh. I mean that of Dunbar; & must indeed congratulate my friend Mr. Fullerton on his fortunate escape from the clutches of a revengeful and disappointed Hawke. It was something very strange, I had a letter from Dunbar same day I had your letter, but I having read your letter first I found nothing new in his — your father and friends here are all well. I am to break silence with your Father and will have his mind — concerning you and yours from his own mouth and you shall have the purport of the conference. But I apprehend the result will be a letter from himself — Mrs. Farquhar¹⁶ has got a young son was baptised John on Monday 3rd Ist. I had the honour to be one of the party at the baptism = Mother and son is doing well — there was none of her brothers present — John is with Donald in Bruceon — I believe I have no News to communicate as Mrs. Duncan has been so lately in the country, you will be made acquainted with everything here. The only deaths here this season is — James McKenzie, blacksmith, Mrs. Cumming, Allanquick & Mrs. Ino¹⁷ Lamont, Clunnie Cottage and last tho not least Rev^d Mr. McFarlane, Crathie, who died 30th. Jan'y. and there is now a very Keen Contest between his son & Mr. Anderson for the Church of Crathie agents are going the round of both parishes canvasing — it is generally believed that Mr. Anderson will be the successful candidate.

My dear friend there is one part of your letter that in some degree casts a gloom over the pleasure we alwise find in reading your letters — that is — that you speak of leaving Scotland — tho we are much assured that your friends accepting the situation will be a more Lucrative Choice yet we would not wish you so far from us nevertheless we rejoice to think that we will see you one more time in Glen Clunnie — previous to your embarking for England — I hope that long before this time your friend is safely landed at Stonehaven, all well.

I almost forgot to tell you George McHard & Hellen McDonald is to keep pace with the Queen by joining hands on Thursday 13th. There is no other movements here at present and as for your (Suitor) he is as, when & where you left him only he seems more forlorn — I beg again to thank you both for complement of books — finally wife & family begs their sincere good wishes to you and Mr. Fullerton — and I say

— Amen —

yours respectfully

A. McIntosh

¹⁵ ist after a date means in the current month

¹⁶ Jane's cousin, Mary Abercrombie, who married James Farquharson

¹⁷ Ino is an abbreviation of John

P.S. I should have told you that Mary Mitchell was Godmother to young John Farquhar and that the Superior and my old Kate was Stewards.

I would ——— but it is the worst paper that ever man scrawled on — so that I am afraid you will be forced to send it back to me that I may read it to you.

farewell — farewell

write soon or else I will write myself. A. M. I.

NOTE: Angus was right about the paper, this letter is in very poor condition compared to the rest of the letters.

Addressed to: Mrs Capt. A. Fullerton, Stonehaven — postmarked Braemar & Ballater

Ault Mhait 18th April 1840

Dear Madam —

— Your long wished for letter came to hand two days after date and I confess notwithstanding the pleasure your letters affords us at all times, I must say your last letter in some measure cast us into the shade, particularly when reflecting on your returning from Ab^{dn}. your setting sail for Sunderland your return & solitary sitting afterwards & made us wish to have been in Stonehaven to endeavour to cheer you a little — But well may you hear those sayings & well do I know that your Heroine fortitude & your Confidence in him who ruleth both sea and dry land will enable you to bear up your spirits in joyfull hopes that a few short months will bring one of your sun shyny days — — but months nor years will not bring to us the man who so much endeared himself to us.

I delivered your letter to your Father he says that you will be up in the end of this month, and we gladly look forward to that time. Do not be afraid of catching cold for we have beautifull weather here, we have not had one shower of rain since the spring work commenced so that we have got one dry seid time. Your Father finished his bear seid some days ago and is commencing planting potatoes. The last lot of his sheep came home this day and I may say in general I never saw sheep in better condition at this time of year — so that the old Boul is in very fine tune = your friends are all well with the exception of your uncle's wife who is rather worse and John looks better than I have seen him do for some years back (so much for disappointed Love). I have nothing new worth writing = I am of the opinion that Jannet Mchardy is to remain over summer there are no more engagements as yet I would fondly hope that you will hear of Capt Fullerton before you come up = the whole catalogue in my house bids you haste to Braemar — and I bid you Farewell.

yours respectfully
A. McIntosh

Addressed to Mrs Capt. A. Fullerton, Stonehaven

Ault Mhait July 29, 1840

My dear Mrs. Fullerton

I had your kind letter last week which at all times gives the greatest pleasure, more especially when it confirms your well being. I should have written you sooner but I have been from home some days this week. Your father has been from home the most of this week — also as I was for the first time to interfere on a family affair, you know it behoved me to wait till I got the Gentleman on that key that suited my tune. I therefore broke silence this day, and I hope I have through the blessing of God upon my well intended intentions so far gained my point, as I hope the letter accompanying this will shew you = Whatever that letter says I can assure that your father much wishes you to come up and stop some time here. But as to Mr. Fullerton he was at some loss how to speak. Supposing it very likely that he would not have so much spare time as to come thus far. So he tells me that he left that entirely to yourselves, if therefore Mr. Fullerton has any spare time I think he should come up however short the stays — as I feel no objection across the ferry¹⁸. I hope he will be in Stonehaven when this reaches you — if not I hope you will as early as possible communicate with him on the subject = and should he not find it possible to get here to see us, assure him that our prayers will go with him where ever he goes and shall anxiously look for your presence among us here as soon as you can & stop as long as your time will allow you. It is the wish of your Father — & the wish of us all and I shall do my best to supply the place of him that's far away and now Madam if the liberty I have and do still take does not encroach on good nature & good breeding, I would yet ask of you the favour to write as soon as you can get matters arranged, what time you mean to come here or if my friend intends to accompany you. I would deem it proper also to write your Father to the same purpose. But I must leave that to your own judgement. If I have done you any service, I will drink as deep of the pleasure as you can do. I will not write any news as I suppose your father's letter contains everything new here and some things I daresay you knew before. My whole household begs their wishes to you both. — Farewell —

Yours with respect
A. McIntosh

¹⁸ An "Angusism" across the ferry probably refers to Jane's father who lives on the opposite bank of the Clunie to Angus. The Clunie is about knee deep at this location.

Addressed to Mrs Capt. A. Fullerton, Stonehaven

Glen Clunnie 11th Decr 1840

My Dear, tho distant friend —

— I received your kind and to me welcome letter, and now sit down to endeavour to perform the pleasing task of returning an answer & in the first place do congratulate you on your safe arrival in Sunderland & on your narrow escape from the gathering storm — whos awful effects in some measure you seem to have been an eye witness to, & tho you had much reason to thank god who hurried you on to a place of refuge, I do not say that your mind was easy — believe me my first peep on the papers is for wrecked vessels but thank god I have not met with the Employ¹⁹ among the number. I truly hope that by this time you are comfortably set in your new lodgings. I am glad to hear it is a pleasant situation. I hope you will be happy, hopes also in these stormy times that the Employ is lying in — allowing your partner a breathing & you the sweets of his company. Mary found much kindness in the persons of Mr & Mrs Rieth. She landed here on the Thursday after, all well, says much of your kindness, was much cut down at parting but as I will have to repeat all this in her letter of same time — I say no more here — My Dear friend, the circumstances of my mother's death will prevent me from saying much to amuse you at this time. My son has got a masters place in Abdn. Margaret has gone to stop with him and her Mother has gone with her — is at this time in Abdn. had you been in Stonehaven would have called on you — all friends here are well and as the live stock is gone to winter lodgings all is quiet except wind & rain which is incessant and furious.

Elizabeth Mitchell has left us and Herriot Mchardy fills her place, Charles Duncan son of Mey Grant is best man. John Miller is a patient in the infirmary — having run the race of Mr Ogilvie Stonehaven, Robert Lamont (Camis) Margot Metack was married last week — your suitor on this side attended the feeing²⁰ market but failed. James Emslie left here for greenock²¹ last week on his way to *America* — should it not be convenient for you to write so soon as we could wish — that shall not prevent me from troubling you with my letters — for a time farewell

with warmest good wishes to
Capt Fullerton
Not forgetting Miss Jane Fullerton
I am with great respect
yours
A. McIntosh

¹⁹ Alexander Fullerton's ship

²⁰ A feeing market is a market held on Whitsunday and Martinmas where farmers engage servants for the coming term

²¹ A port on the firth of the Clyde often used for emmigration to North America

Elizabeth Mitchell has left us and a Herriot
 M'haray fills her place. Charles Duncan
 son of Meg's Grant, is best man - John Miller
 is a patient in the Infirmary - having run
 the race of Mr. Ogilvie & won. Robert
 Lamont (Cammie) Hays & Metachy was
 married last week - your sister on this
 side attended the wedding market but failed.
 James Ernie left here for greenock last
 week on his way to America - should
 it not be convenient for you the wife
 so soon as we could wish - that shall
 not prevent me from troubling you with
 my letters - for a time farewell

With warmest good wishes the

Capt. Fullerton
 Not forgetting Miss Jane Fullerton
 I am with great Respect
 yours
 Chas. M. Mitchell



1841

The early part of the year 1841 was hard for the inhabitants of Glen Clunie. Jane's father had been hit hard with illness and it takes him most of the spring to recover. Angus' mother had died the previous December and in January his wife is seriously ill. Angus mentions rumours that several families are to be moved off their tenancies and the farms converted into deer hunting grounds for the gentry.

Life does have its humourous moments, although not perhaps for James Cattnach

...
"- but beware of bringing him into such a scrape as James Cattnach was brought into, having got a [news]paper from an old acquaintance - with one line wrote on the margin it was looked upon as fraud on the post office & he got £3.3 to pay for the one line".

Addressed to: Mrs Captn Fullerton, Monkwear Mouth, Sunderland

Glen Clunnie 7th Feby 1841

My Dear Mrs F

- After so long silence you will perhaps expect more News than I am prepared to favour you with - I wrote you in December last & does not know if my letter ever found you out. I therefore write at this time with the more delicacy. Be that as it will - I hasten to inform you, that when I wrote last my mind was quite low - owing to my Mother's Death - and even now it is equally so - & I am sure you will be sorry when I tell you that Catherine has been very ill for three weeks past so much so that her life was almost despaired of - but Thank God I can here say she is now much better - I hope by the time I write again I shall be able to resume my former mode of writing - viz - Cheerfulness - I briefly thank you for the paper sent to me. Your father & me perused a whole day. We was much touched while reading the state of the shipping in Sunderland - & almost extinguished our day lights looking for the Employ - happy not to find her in the list of damaged ships. There was another article new to us which our own papers never spoke of - *the royal Cheese* which but for you we might never heard of (accept of our thanks) I was favoured with a reading of your last letter to your father he says we must write you soon - but he much engaged having all the *Gimmers*²² at home and no one to help him also the storm has been long & severe - the Boy for farm service he sent to assist John with the Hogs. Robie is Barn man as usual your *Suitor* is Barn man in Strone - it is rumoured that Frances Cattanach & John McIntosh (Boatie²³) is to be removed and James Cattanach from Allanmore, Lord Hopeton having taken the whole of the shooting grounds north side of the dee - the above farms is to be laid under deer Lord Dundass goes to Glen Calader - there has been no Deaths here since my last except old Hellen Farquharson = our new minister from South = uist²⁴ is looked for every day. Your uncle's wife is poorly indeed I have wrote Donald this day concerning her. All other friends here are well at present. I had a letter last night from Angus & Margaret²⁵ they are quite well. Margt feels quite happy in Aberdeen - perhaps I should mention to you that your father is fond of a reading your English paper - perhaps you will indulge him at times with one - but beware of bringing him into such a scrape as James Cattanach was brought into, having got a paper from an old acquaintance - with one line wrote on the margin it was looked upon as fraud on the post office & he got £3.3 to pay for the one line - Now Honoured Madam - I would humbly solicit the favour of a few lines from you saying how you feel beyond the water. How your health serves you and that of your young charge - and do not fail to tell me all about my friend and where he was at the time of the late Catastrophy

I never hear of his Employment

with regards to him & you and

the pledge of your Loves - I am

A. McIntosh

²² Year old ewes (female sheep)

²³ Ferryman

²⁴ An island in the outer Hebrides

²⁵ Angus and Margaret are two of Angus' four children, both working in Aberdeen at the time

Glen Clunie 17th March 1841

My Dear Mrs. Fullerton —

— I feel proud in acknowledging the receipt of the Captain's letter which in courtesy he condescended to write to me and here I must say, that, rural capacity and lack of education alone prevents me here from apologizing in not answering his letter - as at this time I fear he is in his own element - I assure you the state of family affairs for some time back has so engrossed my mind that those of more distant nature has (though ungratefully) been forgotten. But I am happy to inform you that we are likely to recover - though slowly - we hope you are all enjoying good health & if the Captain be not away, make my kind regards to him. I wish a fair wind and a clear sea may be his lot while far from thee.

— I find that your Father had a letter from my friend - at that time & some time previous your father was quite infirm - indeed more so than ever I saw him before. But is now able to walk as far as my house. He has been often speaking of writing to you but as I have also been out of my latitude he has delayed until my patience was out. However, I willingly inform you that on getting the Captain's letter he spoke to me concerning you - having understood that you was soon to be left alone he wished much that you would come down & spend the season here - intimating that if I wrote you at any time, not to fail in telling you to come as soon as ever the Employ sailed. M. Mitchell²⁶ also pleads you not to delay in coming & we hope you will come - my friend tells me that you will present me with something to keep my hand in use²⁷ - perhaps the hand of a mountaineer may feel too rough for its delicate frame - be that as it may - we shall all feel great pleasure at seeing the young stranger - we have the finest spring weather here that we have had for many years back much of the seid is at this date committed to the earth in good condition, no snow save on mountain tops - some lots of your father's sheep are coming home tomorrow. Auld Donald and Robbie are the principal men in Cornalarick. I have nothing new to trouble you with at this time - we have had neither death or marriage since my last. I think that I said in my last to you that your old *Suitor* was barn man in Strone. But now I must tell you that he is barn man in Loch = end in Fife - but pardon me if this should prevent your coming here - for if you dispense with eloquence for a time - we shall endeavour to supply its place with cheerfulness and affability. Mr. Cattanach is leaving Allanmore, he is going to Badenoch. Your father holds the place for another season.

I could wish you to write me soon but I fear you have lost my address - if not we would like to hear when the Employ sailed or is to sail - as also what time we shall look for your presence. Truly hoping that your Ladyship will condescend to give a gracious answer to the inquiries. I shall for the present

bid you farewell
who am

with greatest respect
Yours
A. McIntosh

²⁶ Mary Mitchell, housekeeper for James Abercrombie

²⁷ Angus seems to be referring to Jane's baby daughter

Ault Mhait 27th April 1841

Dear Mrs Fullerton

- I own myself ungratefull in being so long in answering your kind letter believe me the cause of delay was thus - finding that your father had wrote you I delayed until you should have answered his letter. As then I should know the better how you was disposed to proceed whither to the western coast of Scotland or to the borders of Aberdeenshire. However if you wrote I got no notice of it. I have therefore sat down hastily to inform you that we are all in tolerable health. Your father is not fast recovering however he is always on the go. But the weather here is dreadfully cold and rainy so that a person who may be weakly cannot exercise in the free air = I hope by the time this comes to your hand you will have determined what cource you mean to steer and should you delay in making us acquainted with your intentions - we will conclude that you are either unwell or have cut your sticky²⁸ - I consider myself not at liberty to speak so freely at this time as otherwise I would - as your being in Sunderland is quite uncertain - I was truly sory to learn the situation of my friend while out bound. I hope by this time you may have heard something more cheering of him, which I also would be glad to hear - There is little that I can give you for your amusement from this quarter at present - spring work is finished and some fields early sown is looking well and had it not been for the late cold weather everything here would have been in a state of great forwardness -

Your old acquaintance Margaret McIntosh in Balinloun has got a young son yesterday - she having left her service only 10 days previous - the loon²⁹ is George McHardy her fellow servant at Aldowrie Cottage - they will be married without loss of time. I cannot charge my memory with any other event worth writing since the date of your father's letter -

-Your father seems very fond you should come down for the season but is unwilling to press you in case - as he says to what might happen that might cause reflections - hopes little Jane is quite recovered and yourself in the enjoyment of good health - should you not come down here, have the kindness to let me know before you leave for the west - that I may commune with my friend's wife in his absence -

at all events believe me to be your

constant friend

A. McIntosh

All the Katherines in my house begs to be remembered to you in great kindness and Robbie & Eppie begs not to be forgot to you, all begs their humble petition to your Ladyship to come down & honour them with a shake of your hand - as also to favour them with a front view of that which you so prudantly concealed from them when last you was here - as for myself I shall be silent on that head as my philosophy turned out to be a failor - I shall not --- philosophy no more - farewell,

who am
your well wisher

A. McIntosh

ps write immediately

and you shall hear from me again

AMcI

²⁸ Break off contact

²⁹ Rascal

Glen Clunie 5th July 1841

Much beloved Friend -

- I have before me yours of the 25th May - and was it not that you sometimes teach me the unpleasant system of delay, I would surely reproach myself for having delayed so long to write to you. - But be that as it may, I believe there has nothing transpired since yours came to hand that I esteemed worth your Ladyship's notice. Nevertheless I could not forbear writing in case your Majesty should entertain hard thoughts of me. I will then with gratitude, inform you that we are all in ordinary health at present.

My Lady is a good deal recovered which adds to my health not a little = Your friends here are all well and seems only to want your presence. You seemed in your last to be troubled in vision about part of my Family. I wrote them hastily and find they are both well - and their sister intends (God willing) to go to see them in course of a week or so. I also find you say you wrote your Father previous to writing me, on hearing of which I was extremely well pleased as the old fellow was out of humour at the delay which made me write so soon after him - perhaps before this reaches you, you may be off for Lancaster or at all events you may have heard something of the Employ & if so, do not fail to give me the earliest notice how they speed - there is little alteration in you Father's domestic circle - your friend Farquhar guards the forest as usual. Your cousin James from Coldrach is with me on Cairnwell - he wishes much to hear from you - mention him in your next to me. I rather think Your Father was disappointed in not having you with him all this season, I suppose you had a letter to that effect but I remain a stranger to your answer, so that we are at a loss to think whether we shall have the pleasure of seeing you this season or not - in a former letter you wished to know of James Dunbar. I know not where he is - your Suitor is returned to his study in Newbigging - John Lundie his wife & son has all had the smallpox - do you mind of Hendry the old sergent that frequented Cornalarick, if so Lundie is his picture. The sheep shearing here was last week and a fine week it was and I may safely say you never saw sheep or clips in better condition. We have fine weather at present - the crops are looking well and very promising. I must not omit to convey to you many good wishes from Robbie & Eppie and hopes you will fulfill your promise contained in your last to me - viz - a paper to make him *proud*.

I should have felt happy to have seen you here spinning out a long yarn and enjoying the salutary breezes of our northern climes - to brace the nerves of little Jane before she

is supplanted by -----

but August will soon be here & -----

the Sacrament of the Lord's supper -----

despended here on Sabbath first we -----

have a fine day - but the rain has a-----

according to old observation - do w-----

and say when you mean to start for -----

surely before the 12th Her Ladyship-----

Daughter greets your Majesty -----

great kindness not forgetting the -----

while I remain -

with much esteem -

yours

A

*the edge of the
letter is torn and
not legible*



Sluicing the sheep, sketch by Queen Victoria
The Royal Collection Copyright 2002, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

1842

In 1842 Victoria and Albert visited Scotland for the first time. They were enchanted by the country they saw. Prince Albert wrote "Scotland is a country full of beauty, of a severe and grand character. . . The people are more natural, and are marked by that honesty and sympathy, which always distinguish the inhabitants of mountainous countries . . . "Victoria was later to call Scotland "the proudest, finest country in the world" and there is no doubt that her love for Balmoral put a seal of approval on Scotland.

In Glen Clunie Angus writes of unsettled times and uncertainty. The small tenancies of the area are let on an annual basis and the farmers can be shuffled in or out of their homes and farms as the Factor (the local estate manager) dictates. North Americans often picture their ancestors living in the same cottage for generations, and in many cases that may be true. But in the letters of Angus McIntosh it is clear that the inhabitants of Glen Clunie in the mid-1800's did not have this certainty.

Glen Clunnie 25th Feby 1842

My Lady

- I got your letter in the long run and was happy to hear that your Ladyship still existed and was in health - and also that my friend had providentially escaped the late hurricane at sea - I admitt that 13th Jany was tempestuous - but with us when compared with the 3rd Feby - it was only as ----- so that we was quite uneasy till your letter reached us - but even then when we consider the date of yours we are still unsatisfied - your date runs thus - 12th Jany 1832 - However we hope all is well - our country is in a very unhealthy state at present your Father has been confined within doors for some time - Mary³⁰ has also been very ill - the effects of a bad cold - which is prevellent in the Country - while I write my whole family is more or less effected - there has been several Deaths here since my last - perhaps - it may not be new to you but I will here mention the deaths since my last - Thus - Lord Young's Mother - Patrick Gordon elder, a sickly child belonging to Robert Ewing - Muckle³¹ Jane merchantess Auchindryne - old William McKenzie and Mrs. Parker - and while I write tidings of the death of Mrs. John Shaw tollkeeper, has just reached us and God alone knows how soon the others may have to record the deaths of either of us ---

I must now go back and tell you that your Father and Mary are almost well again - I have no order from them to write - but permit to say that your letter of the above date - came to hand I find our carrier is not in town this week consequently the Box spoken of in yours will not come before the end of next week - it is therefore very likely she will write soon afterwards - I therefore esteem it proper in me not to spin a longer yarn at this time - I hope before this time my friend will be with you, and all well - I am surprised that you should speak of not coming down this season .. as .. as .. that rascally pen of mine - I must just hold it fast in my hand - it is so - confoundedly interferingly - and so open Mouthed - but shall have done with him - as I have nothing more worth writing also that I am so taken up with nursing at present.

Hoping to hear from you soon -

I shall bid you farewell -

Who am

Yours Respectfully

Angus McIntosh

³⁰ Mary Mitchell, housekeeper at Cornalarick

³¹ Large

Glen Clunnie - 12th March 1842

My Dear Mrs Fullerton -

- Since ever I had the honour and pleasure of making you acquainted with some of the occurrences of your native land - Never did I set down with more satisfaction to write you - than at the present moment. Indeed I had come to the conclusion that I had lost that place in your confidence = which for a long time I had studied to merit - no Doubt I formed conjectures respecting your silence - However I accept of your apology and so we are straight again - I find that my Friend³² has again entered his own element so I shall wish him god speed - and a happy return - My dear friend will you for a moment pardon my digression - while I tell you that a message has just come giving notice that your Uncle's wife in Coryaltie is at rest from all the Toils she bore - she died between 7 & 8 this Morning - her sufferings for a week back I shall not attempt to describe - as I find that your father is writing at the same time and probably will out run mine - Never the less I am allowed to say that her last moments passed off in peace - permit me then to say that you and me and every one who ever saw her has great reason to thank god that she is now relieved from her suffering which was long and loathsome - Your father was in my house when both letters came to hand at that time he was more than usually affected at your mention of going a sea voyage - and not only calls on you to come down this season = but even pleads you to come and as early as possible - and on giving timely notice he will send to Blairgowrie to meet you - I spoke to your Mother on Sabbath told her of your writing me and she bids me to say that she meant to send some articles to you - but as we have had na carrier this season she could not send them earlier but should you be minded to come here soon she would postpone forwarding them to you - you will therefore write soon and say whether or not you wish them sent to you - the weather here is very stormy at present - but is rather Milder to day - I have just got Notice that Duncan McKenzie dalagowing - has also died this morning - you will have no doubt heard of the fate of Donald Mchardy Strone his sequestrated effects was sold by public roup on 23rd Febry his farm is to let and he himself a poor fugitive - under hiding - But I must have done as I am afraid I am only filling up my letter with the same materials of which your father's letter is composed - Hoping that you are somewhat more cheerfull than when you wrote me would ask of you to write me soon ---- say what you intend to do as to coming here - I got a paper - that for size would serve for a bed cover. I got one formerly - I supposed it to be from you - I looked for one for Robbie - but I gave him a look at mine. But I must have done. My family wishes to be remembered to you and little Jane - and as for me I wish you to enumerate all my good principles - & to overlook all my bad ones and if you do / for I am yours & truly [last phrase missing] A. McIntosh

³² Captain Fullerton

Glen Clunnie 19th April 1842

My Dear Mrs Fullerton

I have this time to apologise for my remisness in writing to your ladyship - soon after getting your last letter I tripped off to Kenstrary Lodge to see Angus, and left his sister Kate with him. We got very stormy weather which detained me nearly two weeks - afterwards the weather was very fine and Kept me close at work - I also find that your friends have got two letters from you in the intervaul so I considered that I could give you nothing new. The shepherds are all come home and you will be - overpowered with letters - However to let you know that I am alive I hastily write a few lines this morning. I have not been favoured with anything contained in your letters to your friends here - I therefore truly hope my friend has fully recovered and is = himself again = I also would be glade to know what course he means to stear this season or if we may look for your coming here - our - affairs in Glen Clunnie is still unsettled Mr Roy is farmer in Strone - Mchardy is still there only at the option of the factor³³. Mrs. Mchardy cannot boast of Horse or cow lamb or ewe - John McDonald is also much hemmed in. Your father has taken the hill of Newbigging and all the sheep and young cattle - so much for the fluctuating things of this world - in conformity with the above = I may tell you here - that another Instance of the uncertainty of our time as well as of our substance happened here some days ago. John McIntosh (alias) Lachlan³⁴ Invery had been down as far as Kylachreach³⁵ = and having drunk some spirits along with some of his Neighbours and while on their way home supposing him to be asleep in his cart allowed him to remain undisturbed till they arrived near Castletown when he was found be a corpse - we have fine weather at present so that the Spring work is all but finished - I hope you will not forget your old corrispondant - tho you may have some new ones = do then write me soon as I know nothing of what you write to your friends - However we hope to see you here - I find I shall not have the pleasure of escorting Mrs Rieth to the top of our mountains this season - it seems the air had proved salubrious and bracing - as a young Rieth is forthcoming - my time is out I must have done

- My family joins with me in their respects
to you and little Jane - not forgetting
my friend when you write to him
yours with greatest respect
A. McIntosh

³³ A person hired to manage property for its owner

³⁴ May be the christian name of his father

³⁵ an old coaching inn west of Ballater

Ault Mhait 15th Octr 1842

Dear Madam -

- Having called at the post office this day week I was favoured with your Kind letter - also one for your Father. I find that the winds had been more favourable to my friend than they seem to have been to you we were sorry to learn that you had such a rough passage but much surprised to hear of you being sea sick - having been so often at sea before, I hope little Jane stood it out - we were also much troubled to hear that the Capt. had been so long home before you - as we well knew how vexed you would be - But the very pleasant relation of his safe return over ruled all other circumstances - the only circumstances to be regrated, was his leaving you so soon & his long absence - However we truly hope that by this time you have fully recovered from the fatigue of you journey - I must not here omit to thank you for your attention in writing so early - believe me we are always so happy to hear from you - & as from the earliest date of our acquaintance our corrspondance has been based on pure friendship - I truly hope that neither distance nor length of time (while time remains) shall break off or destroy our friendship -- I should have wrote you last week But I waited for the News from Hamburg which has come to hand in the intervaul - I am sory to add there is nothing forthcoming. But as he writes soon - I shall say no more on this point. And now I must give you the Cheering Intelligence that even in Glen Clunnie the crops is secured a week ago the last of the potatoes crop in Cornalarick was housed on Tuesday last McDonalds same day - How could it be other ways when I tell you that since you left here we have had weather equal to that in August. While I write the whole Sorounding hills is on fire - leaving nothing for March month in the valley the Sun is truly hot - the laying of the hogs is finished, John Thompson was here at laying - on John the effects of marriage is visable - At our market here your Father sold early in the day £1-- per head for wedders I am not aware how the Allanmore Cattle sold - but on Tuesday before going to market he sold three quays (of which yours formed one) at £9-- per head and Miss M. got £7-- Kept two for himself - the last of the wool left here on Thursday Miss M. M. went with the carts to Blairgowrie with a lot of dairy - She comes home to day - perhaps I may here give you a bit of news which has this moment come to me respecting James Duff - late of Ridoray he sold his wedders at falkirk amount £1000- he who bought had a weeks credit but having sold the sheep next day - Duff was informed that he had eloped - Duff followed to Edinburg dogged him from place to place till he found him - demanded his money & in return got a bullet through the left breast, when the messenger left Duff was in life - I cannot say more on that point having now given you all the information I can collect - I hope I shall leave your ladyship quite satisfied for this time I dare to say this scroll will occupy your leisure moments for one day. I have wrote the more fully as I look upon you at present in a widowed state - hoping that my friend at his coming will not take offence - at my amusing his lady in his absence -

- The family of Invercauld left yesterday for gray House - - we shall be happy to hear from you as soon & as often as convenient for you -

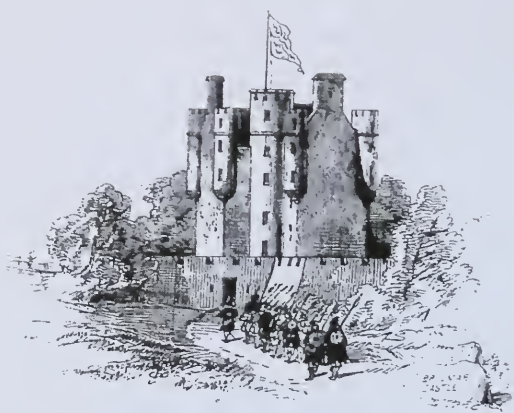
- Kate sends her regards to you & little Jane

- she speaks of your wool being finished by Tuesday but I must have done, I am quite fatigued

- May you & yours be ever Happy

Yours Respectfully

A. MacIntosh



Braemar Castle

1843

1843 was one of Scotland's watershed years. The Church of Scotland was torn apart by a disagreement over the rights to appoint ministers, a disagreement of such magnitude that it has become known in the Church as the Disruption. Four hundred and seventy ministers quit the Established Church to set up their own Free Church during this period. They took with them almost as many Elders, numerous teachers and nearly forty per cent of the Church of Scotland's communicants. To Mary Mitchell those who left the Established Church were the "Cecedars" to Angus they were simply the "Nons."

The Free Church of Scotland was born on May 18, 1843. The Disruption has been called the "most momentous single event in nineteenth-century Scottish history." The effects on education in Scotland were also dramatic. Four hundred teachers quit the Kirk and by 1851 the Free Church had established over 700 schools and brought about an enormous extension of education.

Glen Clunie did not escape the Disruption and the letters of Angus McIntosh and Mary Mitchell³⁶ both dwell on the local outbreak of this bitter dispute. Mary tells Jane "yea even the Ministers are battling against each other . . . (God help us)."

³⁶ Mary Mitchell is housekeeper to James Abercombie (Jane Fullerton's father)

Dear Mrs. Fullerton

I got your letter apprising me of the box and contents. Now I can say that all came safe to hand in good condition. And in return accept our grateful acknowledgements. But in particular that of old Robbie who is at a loss to find words whereby to express his gratitude. He is therefore earnestly soliciting the guardian of the face to assist him in returning thanks for the SWEET SCENTED NOSE CHEERING BEVERIDGE - and not less engaging is the bottle which contains it. I am proud of my slippers - they do well. As for the Brose Caps³⁷ they are beautiful in the extreme - but I am afraid to use them to any other purpose than an ornament. Say will they stain if used in any form. I am at a loss as to news as probably you may have been made acquainted with the general news here through other channels. However I may here mention that there has been many deaths here this winter - I shall only mention the latest - viz - Patrick Gordon Elder - Mrs. Stuart (alias Muckle Jane) - and yesterday was the funeral of William Stuart's wife Glen Calader - many more are sickly here our country being affected with influenza. There are no other news more general - than our Church indeed I may say this poor thin peopled country is at present divided into three classes - Presbyterians - Cecedars - and Romans - this place is all agitation every week there are meetings. Lecturing either on non intrusion or on Romanism, the Minister is battling against the Priest and the Priest against the Minister yea even the Ministers are battling against each other in the Church of Braemar (God help us).

The weather is getting more settled but no outdoor work has yet been done - I may mention to you that Ann Rattray maidservant to McKenzie Balna has left her service - her master's son Peter is the culprit (her apron full). But there is something in your letter which I cannot pass without blaming you for - you made no mention of little Jane - say is she in life or have you sent her abroad on her way to the Highlands - or have you forgot there is such a one - depend we have not forgot her and is disappointed in not hearing of her. Write soon and let us hear of her - and say what course the Employ means to steer this season. Also hope you have made up your mind to come down this season - providing that it be convenient for you to come we shall be very happy that you should come as early as you may - as for the Box we shall allow it to remain here till you write us afterwards it probably may be sent to you on giving proper directions for its convey, should you come yourself it may remain until you come. I am happy to say that your Father has now fully recovered his cold. All other friends are in the ordinary way but I must conclude this long scroll you will be wearied in reading it. You will mind us in kindness to the Captain and Jane and write soon. I remain your sincere well wisher.

Mary Mitchell

³⁷ Wooden porridge bowls

Ault Mhait 5th May 1843

Honble. Madam

I got your letter last night and was happy to hear you was both well - you will be apt to imagine that I am getting fond of you now when writing so punctual - well no harm - but I must apologize - but where shall I begin - well I shall - begin here - that is to say when your ladyship wrote me some time ago your ladyship wrote your Father at same time - well I believe that I wrote you some time afterwards = well then the self same day that I posted my letter Miss Mary Mitchell ye know came to me and bade me write Madam Fullerton saying that your letter was after coming home - and tell you be sure and come down and see us. Now Madam as my letter was after crossing the Bar - I thought it would look unco³⁸ like to write ilka³⁹ day just as if I was a suitor in place of a Cohabiter as your ain guid man bade me be - thus far for an apology. Now my good lass will you Just overlook my not writing the answer M.M.M.⁴⁰ required well. weel. I will just take your silence for granted by the bye she bade me tell little Jane that Kirst - had a fine lamb and hope she will come to see it - However, we are all happy to hear that you have got good tidings from the Employ. Success to my noble friend - I have gleaned very little to amuse you at this time - the only thing spoken of here is the ministers - Mr Mcrae has left the Kirk on Sabbath (yesterday) he preached in the Fyfe Arms to 170 hearers - while Mr Anderson preached in the Kirk to 100 sitters = mourn for your native vale - divisions and strife are within it. Mr Mcqueen & John Atken has left. Angus is prescenter, all in the fife interest has gone to Lows Barn - But I shall be able to say more in my next if you wish for it - perhaps you have heard of the sudden death of James Shaw lately married to Bell McIntosh he was killed on the spot while blasting stones a fragment struck him on the head - he never moved - this is the third death in that corner within a short period - viz - James Mchardy and Jane Shuan & James Shaw Alexr. Shaws wife is still in life a pitifull sight indeed (Bell Fraser is also dead). - And now the shepherds ----- James Abercrombie in Canto----- Alexr. McIntosh from Glenshee = on Carirnwell - James Farquhar - Craig maddie & Newbigging Peter Mitchell farm servant & Annie Eggo Dairy maid & e & e as for your other cusin James Abercrombie he is shepherd in Inveredrie - Now I will tell you this is the coldest season that ever was felt this side of Lapland no man can stand it without his great coat with plaid over it - 2 pairs of stockings & spats⁴¹ with a pair of strong mitts along with cold we have continual rains allow me to write you soon - by your answering this all my family sends their regards to you both - do accept of mine too - farewell
your friend A. McIntosh

³⁸ Peculiar

³⁹ Same

⁴⁰ Mary Mitchell

⁴¹ Short ankle gaiters

Glen Clunnie 15th May 1843

Dear Mrs Fullerton

I had your very kind letter yesterday we are happy to find that you are in the enjoyment of good health - I am also happy to be enabled thus to write to you - indeed at the time I got my friend's letter there was little hopes of my ever answering it - but God seeth not as man seeth - and I am still spared a living monument of the tender mercies of God. I was taken ill early in March and at this date I have not gone out to work being still rather weakly but thank god I am recovering strength daily - hopes to resume work soon - indeed the whole family has been badly - Margaret was so for 5 weeks - Old Kate alone kept out of bed - and was enabled to nurse to me and she did so as tenderly as she would a child - and here I must not omit to thank you for the box sent - I flatter she has been more benefited by - old parr - than anything else previously taken in that way - But I hope by next letter you will have made up your mind to come North. However if all goes well with me I must attend to my friend's injunctions - Namely to communicate with you in your Widowhood but hopes to have it in my power to do so personally. I think you wrote me formerly that there was nothing to hinder you - in this my friend confirms in his letter (if I did not understand amiss) be that as it may - my humble opinion is that this is small cause for regretting considering the state of trade in general - I find little encouragement for indulging in the branch in question - Indeed for my own part I have given in intirely. However should you come here and just take a trip with me to the top of Cornalarick and breath the fresh air which proves so salubrious to strangers in general - the system may be braced and cause a reviving - Remember Mrs Rieth = enough - I am just in company with your cousin Donald who is paying a short visit to his friends - he is still keeping his place. Your father is in his usual health - all other friends are well. Mrs Farquhar has got an addition to her family - a Daughter - Margaret by name - there has been several deaths since my last to you but you have likely heard of them and as I find - some fatigued - I omit their names however I may here mention - that Alexr. Shaw's wife has fallen in the fire a second time - but should I here attempt to describe to you her situation it would cast a gloom over the whole of my letter. I cannot here inform you what servants are to be at Cornalarick this season I think Ann Eggo remains - cousin James - (from Corygaltie) also remains - I cannot say for more this has been a very indifferent Spring season - your Father is planting the last part of his potatoe crop today - he has sowed 8 bolls of oats at Allanmore this season and except turnip all other spring work is finished - Hopes by the time you write me again you shall be able to say something of the Employ & master - we feel impatient to hear of their voyage outward - do write soon and say what time we may look for your Ladyship and Charge - But should you not incline to indulge with your presence I shall feel happy in being allowed the honour of communicating to your Ladyship all the differant transactions & news of your Native Glen - meantime my whole family begs their kind regards to you and Jane and as for me take this scroll as my token of regards and believe me

yours respectfully
A. McIntosh

Glen Clunie July 8, 1843

Respected Madam

This day is wet by which I gain a little breathing time. I therefore catch the moment to write to your Ladyship, not knowing what reception my last letter got from your Grace nevertheless I trouble your Highness with a second. I desire your Majesty's leave to be punctual to my friend's order -- therefore my motive is pure -- but I am here called on to say that Miss Mitchell got a letter from you lately -- but as she still hopes to see you here she declines (or at least gave me no particulars to write) indeed I myself am of the same mind. However I do with gratitude (to the great giver) and say that my family and all your friends here are in the enjoyment of good health at present.

Since writing you last the weather has been quite hot and dry so that sheep shearing went off in style -- here I must remark there was not one Non Intrusion called to the clipping --- I think I spoke in my last letter of the division that had taken place in our Church here -- and here Madam I must beg your pardon if I intrude on your time -- while I give a brief sketch of those families who have followed Mr. McRae. Indeed with a few exceptions the whole of the fyfe interest have left the Kirk --on the banks by the Clunie the Auchalater family has fled in a body. Mr. McQueen and family has also left. John Aitken and family, John Barron and family, Mrs. Poset and family but Duncan remains. William Gruer and family -- and what do you think of him we call Suitor -- who lately among a party of moderates he openly declared that he believed that all those who remained in the Kirk were Damned -- so much for the spirit of decenters. We have not as yet got a Minister but we have service every sabbath -- the Session books is taken from McQueen his successor not appointed. So much for the Church and now what else shall I send your Ladyship -- well, I will tell you that yesterday James Farquharson was declared sole heir of the estates of Invercauld. Marley & etc his Mother having given in her rights -- and take her allowance. Great additions and repairs are being made to the house of Invercauld -- Charles Fraser Invery after giving the usual satisfaction in such cases to Jane Watt for her lap full was yesterday married to the old drover's daughter her father being a corpse at the time and buried today -- Belle MacDougald has left her service with her apron full -- I shall not say who is blamed -- so you see things is going on well here notwithstanding the awkward spring. I hope you soon will be able to say something of my friend and of your coming here. Write as soon as convenient. Old Kate begs her regards to you and believe me yours truly, A McIntosh

Glen Clunnie 29th July /43

Dear Madam -

- I simply write you again saying that I got your letter in due time requesting me to join with you in your prayer - and truly you would wrong me should you for a moment doubt of my willingness to obey and I do truly hope that long before this time you have tasted of the fruits of our united prayers But I am afraid you will have left for Scotland before this reaches you. Neither need I here call on you to inform me How & Where my friend is - hoping soon to have all information from your own mouth - I brought a letter to your Father last week I think it was from your Lord - but I learned none of its contents - Both we and all Friends are well if you are not on the go write and say something of the Employ - as I am now on the blue mountains do not look for a long letter - the weather continues rainy I hope you get my last letter containing all the information your letter required both nearly the same date - farewell

A McIntosh

Glen Clunnie 14th Augt 1843

Well Luckie

I got your letter giving a final answer to the long pending question - indeed it gives me pleasure at all times to hear that all goes well with my friend. But am sorry he should be destined to another long voyage so suddenly - well be it so - but had you not been good enough to give the reasons assigned for your not coming to see us - I should have immediately stoped the supplys yet I will not conceal that which so much tends my magic spell⁴² for I find you found out my secret and practiced it in a more convenient & in a more genial clime. You have Broke my Mountain Charm -

My master bids me say she is sorry she does not feel in condition for harvesting and she warns you to spare yourself & take it easie in case you need to climb Craig Maddie wie me. But I must cut short this you know is my harvest - Mr Anderson has not left the Church he preaches to us each Sabbeth forenoon and at Crathie in the afternoon - Mr McRae is getting up a wooden church in Tommrightan it will be ready by Sunday first as that is the communion Sabbath with them - ours will not be before the end of October as there is no prospect of a minister to us before that time - all the gentlemen & ladies attends with us as usual - all friends here are well - the weather which has been wet for three weeks past - is now very dry hay cutting is getting on. John Abercrombie is at present south for lambs you need never speak of John splicing I believe when you left him you carried off the virtue & desire for woman he never speaks none of them - as for John Gruer it seems he has also got the power to mortify his member - Mr Lovie is come and brought with him a Bell for the new chapel - weight 50 stone - it tolls every church going day.

By the by Miss E McDonald has gone to be housekeeper to a shepherd on the Backwater we truly hope when she comes again- it will not be the Maiden of New Bigging - I saw Jas. Abercrombie I suppose he had wrote you before this time - I also find that Donald & his Master has had a row - he left for some days but is home again. I thank you for the confidence reposed in me. I hope I never betrayed your confidence -

M.M.M. is guessing such & such is the case with you. I am silent on the subject but you will at your convenience be free to tell us if you hope to spread your sails when his lordship furls his - we truly hope that he (for your comfort) may be at the launching⁴³.

-But my time is out again I would say to you be careful of yourself and may he who tempers the wind to the shorn lamb make your strength equal to your day is the earnest prayer of us here - farewell

yours with regards

A. McIntosh

⁴² Angus is probably referring to his theory that climbing Craig Maddie seems to encourage pregnancy

⁴³ Refers to the impending birth of Jane's first son

Glen Clunnie 14th Octr. /43

My Dear Madam -

- Your second letter reached me in due time you have made me your debtor by one letter be it so - I am still more indebted to you for giving me from time to time such Intelligence of my friend as you may be possessed of - I hope the next will be - at home - I hope you got the paper of which you spoke I attacked your Father for having - omitted to send it in time - he posted it next day I believe he has wrote you since - (I am told so) ~ the weather here has changed suddenly ~ up to wednesday we had unprecedently fine weather since then we have daily falls of snow with high winds to day is sunny but snow even in the valley is from 4 to 6 inches deep with keen frost flocks are badly off - the worst is much of the crops are still uncarried and some un cut your Father got in his bear in good condition his oats are still on the fields and some to cut in allanmore he sowed 16 bolls he rouped the half of the crop the other half still remains uncut - all above castletown has their oats on the fields at Newbigging there is part of a field to cut. we are in great fear for the potatoe crops being hurt by the frost - our Market here passed off quietly. it was a dull Market on the whole I believe your father realized £1- for the wedders the highest in the market the cattle was low - I cannot name the price - But oh;; how shall I mention it;; old grannie (white cow) but oh;; perhaps by this time she may have reached Waterloo place - for she crossed the grampians on her way south I believe she brought £3= No doubt little Jane will be sorry to hear that the white cow is gone - and singular - there is none of her offspring in cornalarick the last was sold along with herself - as to servants they must be in my next - we have got no minister as yet nor notice of one but we have sermon every sabbath -

I cannot charge my memory with any more worth sending so far - as your father has wrote so lately. perhaps my letter maybe a repetition of his - by the bye how did you get on with your Harvesting. how many threaves⁴⁴ - I believe you was regulated be advice -

I have only to add that we and all friends here are in good health at present Indeed your father is more so - than for some years back and so is old Donald if there is any that write you more full - there are none writs with more good will and should I at any time omit anything you wish to know please mention it - but this I must say - I have failed much in my form of writing my hand shakes so = you manage to read it -

Hopes you are still doing well -

with our regards to you & little Jane

I remain with respect

yours etc

A. McIntosh

⁴⁴ Measure of cut grain usually 12 sheaves

Glen Clunnie 22nd Novm. 1843

Honoured Madam

- I come now to take my leave of your Ladyship for a season, hoping that the (comforter) is come & I also hope, I have in some measure fulfilled the trust reposed in me, at all events I had the will to do so - therefore, before I take my leave - I shall tell you that all friends here are in the enjoyment of good health excepting cousin Donald who has had a severe fever but is now got over it. I had him here this forenoon. I also may here mention that we have a Minister⁴⁵ - a Mr Mitchell to whom we gave an unanimous call - he is a middle aged man, has a wife & family - hitherto he has been a teacher in Badenoch - an able preacher our sacrament was held here on sabbath week. I feel that McRae has carried off about one third - Mr McRae is allowed to remain in the parsonage till Whitsunday⁴⁶ as is also Mr McQueen - they have been served with an intimation to that effect - the winter is fast closing in on your native vale. But the favourable - fall - has enabled us in a great measure to be prepared for it - I find that the early threatened winter and the keen frost is inducing some here to follow the example of the wise that came before them by engaging partners to keep them comfortable (over one winter at least) James Robertson Journeyman shoe maker was some weeks ago married to Jane Grant (Jane Roy's daughter) - by the bye - she destroyed his comfort last week - by bringing him a daughter = and again Margaret Coutts Cairna Chuines furniture crossed cairnwell yesterday - she follows - to join hands with Charles McGregor cattle dealer Blairgowrie - more are spoken of at this moment bridegroom & party are passing.

- In your fathers domestics there are little alteration at this term - John McHardy Keeper Mar Lodge has lost his good place - he is out of place - I think I have given you an outline of all I know - But I take a pinch - and look round the Country

-By the bye - I should not omit to tell you that we have a very good crop this Season. Every farmer has supply enough within himself - your Father is busy breaking up more of Allanmore. I suppose by Spring he will have 20 acres of it under crop and consequently will not do much at Cornalarick as the Lease is drawing to a close - it is not likely that he will renew terms - so I hope my friend will bethink himself. Come down and take the situation & live out his days on terra ferma.. And now as regards my own family - Angus is still with us Margaret remains with Alex McDonald keeper Balmoral - and Catherine comes home - you will say something of the Employ and my friend = my regards to him without fail = say something of Miss Jane - my household all send their regards to you and for your Negligence I bid you = farewell A. McIntosh

⁴⁵ The first Minister to assume duties at the Kirk after the Disruption

⁴⁶ The opposite term day to Martinmas, May 28th



Inverey, near Braemar

1844

Jane Abercrombie and Alexander Fullerton have been married now for five years and it would seem that Jane's father is reconciled to the match. Angus is effusive in his references to the Captain ("my friend") and in his letter in March of this year, he looks forward (perhaps with some anxiety) to having the Captain return to the Glen. This might be his first visit back to see James Abercrombie since his marriage to Jane. Trade at sea seems to have improved over the "flatness of trade" which Alexander had mentioned to Angus the year before. This is important because there are now two children in the young family (named, of course, Jane and Alexander) which Angus refers to as enlarging the stock.

The dissension in the Church continues to upset the pattern of life in Glen Clunie. "A spirit of contention prevails here" and a teacher assigned to the school of Inverey has the doors shut against him by the "Nons." Angus' letters almost always refer to the prevailing weather conditions. Remarkably, we know that he kept a daily weather report from 1846 to 1873. In his letter of March 20th, he mentions two months of heavy storm with snow falling as he is writing and the "state of sheep on low grounds has been miserable." The summer arrives and Jane returns to the Glen. The Captain is now the Master of the brig "Employ" and evidently has been long at sea. But again in October the rain is incessant and the Clunie "flooded beyond any previous extent you ever witnessed here." Angus' croft has become his "prison" he writes. By the end of the year, Angus has become an Elder in the Established Church in Braemar.

Glen Clunnie 20th March 1844

Much Injured Madam

Yours of the 11th reached me on 17th. bringing the favourable intelligence of your well being. I am happy. I am enabled to speak favourably of myself and family and all friends here at present as respects our health. I am aware you will think my conduct towards you disrespectful in not answering my friend's letter - believe me it was not through any disrespect. Should you for a moment harbour such an opinion, you would much wrong me. I truly believe that your friends over the water wrote so I deemed it superfluous in me to write at same time, more so as I every week looked for my friend to appear among us, when I should be enabled to congratulate him in person. However I am quite aware that your Lord will charge me with being more inclined to write to his Lady than to himself - be it so. I must quietly bear the charge. Hoping to satisfy so far when I tell him that I write to none but ladies - however I cannot omit here to congratulate him on the prospect of reviving trade. Last year in his letter to me he spoke of the flatness of trade - which would not allow him to enlarge his stock - I had much pleasure in learning that not only had he enlarged but much improved his stock by crossing the breed. I am aware that my correspondant will look up to me for all the ups and downs that has taken place here since my last. I am not prepared at present for a satisfactory return on the point as these extempore lines are hastily thrown together. However I shall go the lengths of my paper - beginning with Deaths which are happily confined to two - viz. Jannet ault Lait Glenney and Jessie Stuart milner Auchindryne. Marriages 1st Jas. Robertson Inverey to Elspet Gordon - 2nd Christian McDonald to one Coutts - Cromare. 3rd Jas. Coutts Black=hall to the maiden of the Milltown Bulloch & C. I am sorry to say that a spirit of contention prevails here (in the Church) Mr. Smith (alias Robbiegow) was commissioned to the school of Inverey - the Nons have shut the doors against him - a process the result. We have had a heavy sto--- -- for two months back - it has been general and the state of sheep on the low grounds has been miserable. While I write snow falls, not a black spot is to [be] seen but as M. M. most likely will write to you soon - I shall for the time take my leave and

bid you farewell with only begging
the regards of my family circle to you
and your family circle and believe me

Yours truly

A. McIntosh

Jessie Storer Milner Auchincloss
 Marriages - 1st Jas Robertson Inverly
 to Elsie Gordon - 2nd Christian McDonald
 to one - Coutts - 3rd Jas Coutts
 Blackhall to the Maidens of the Milltown
 Bulloch - I am sorry to say that a
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 and the state of sheep on the low grounds has been
 miserable while I write snow fall, not a black spot
 is to be seen - But as M. M. most likely will write
 to you soon - I shall for the sake my law and
 Did you fare well with only begging
 the regards of my family Circle to you
 and your family Circle - and believe me
 Yours truly
 A. M. Milner

Glen Clunnie 26th October 1844

My dear Mrs. Fullerton

I now hasten to fulfill a twofold obligation devolving upon me, - viz - my promise to your Grace at parting in Scotland - and the acknowledging the receipt of your kind letter - and in doing so I am afraid that I shall not meet your wishes as my epistle must be brief - However - I may inform you that your letter came to hand last evening, containing a very welcome present - for which I am called on to return you many thanks. We are also very glad to hear of Captain Fullerton's being well. But, oh he is long a coming - we feel much pleasure in hearing of your very pleasant home-bound passage but sorry to hear that you have dealt so hardly with poor Alick on his immediate return home - hopes he will soon get better - I may now here take some notice on your observations on the weather of which you speak so favourably after you left - the weather here became cold and wet - till after our market when the rains became so heavy and incessant as to retard all outdoor work. The Clunnie was flooded beyond any previous extent you ever witnessed here but the fields in general were cleared off of their precious contents before the rain fell - only Newbigging fields retained their produce and was entirely flooded. Our communication with the opposite bank was carried off and only a few days ago have we got out of our prison.

For some days back the weather is fine, the crops are all secured in good condition. I shall now go back as far as our market and tell you it was a good one. Cornalarick wedders sold on entering the market stance sold at 1.2 pounds the stots were sold at home at 18/- yeld ewes 1 pound - Baddach wedders at 19/6 Auchalaters at 1.3 pounds.

So much for Monday - on Tuesday your Father by the time he had entered the stance had few he could call his own and in course of an hour or a little more, the whole of the lot was in his purse. His sale of corn at Allanmore went off in style. Sold off the one half of the crop which brought upwards of 120 pounds and now I think I have in some measure fulfilled my promise - but here I may tell you that John Gruer has not got the Stron and as you kindly enquire about the health of my family I can only say that old Kate is much the same and as when you left young Kate is still improving - and again I thank you for your attention. I shall feel happy from time to time to answer any inquiries you may make concerning this place - and when convenience serves you, I shall feel obliged in having a few lines from you and always say something of my Lord and family. All friends here are well. John and part of the flock has left for winter quarters. John McHardy who got his leg broke by the upsetting of the Braemar coach is doing well. Nothing more worthy of notice since you left. Dear Mrs. F. this is wrote in all haste but perhaps you will manage to read it - I beg you to overlook blunders - perhaps by next - I shall have more leasure - the female department of my household send their kind love to you and begs to be remembered to Miss Fullerton as for Jack he does not care a strae⁴⁷ for compliments - farewell

Yours in haste A. McIntosh

⁴⁷ Straw

Glen Clunnie December 27th 1844

My dear Mrs. Fullerton

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your kind welcome letter. I hope by this time you have got the Gudeman safely home and that you are now in the enjoyment of the blessings and comforts which a happy and contented family circle can produce.

I must now crave your indulgence for a short time, while I endeavour to recount to you all the important items connected with your native country. In the first place I have to tell you that Miss Clarke was married about a month ago with John Gray of the Firm of Morrison and Gray Broad Street Aberdeen, also Robert Grant Taylor and Amelia Cattanach was joined about two weeks since, none but the best class in Braemar were permitted to be present on the august occasion. Last though not least, the great Miss Gruer Braegaric was married last week to John McKenzie, General Duff's game keeper. He is a young man about 25 years of age. I think that is all that has been done in the marriage line since you left, at least in Braemar. I believe Peter Mchardy Balloch and Elizabeth Lamont Balmoral was married about three weeks since.

I must now apprise you of another subject though of a different nature, yet no less important. I mean the electing of Elders and Deacons in the Est. church here, I dare say you will smile when I give you their names, well then here they are Charles Stuart (Smith Stuart) Corrymulzie Duncan Cumming (old Post) Castletown, and myself! Elders - Robert Grant (Taylor) Deacon. Now I suppose that this is more than you expected to hear, I think this is all the news of any consequence that I can recollect. Your friend Jas. Abercrombie is still in the same place. I had a letter from him the same night as I had yours. As regards ourselves we are still in the enjoyment of tolerable good health but the auld wife against the fire is far from being well, Yet, she is troubled with a violent cough, but Dr. attends her, and says he sees no dangerous symptoms and thinks he will make a good job of her bye and bye. Your friends all well. My family joins me in kind respects to your Gudeman. We shall expect to hear from you as often as convenient. Believe me ever yours in friendship Angus McIntosh

P.S. I keep school at Newbigging⁴⁸ as usual

⁴⁸ A nearby farm where Angus often taught school. Angus usually opened his school about December 1st.



*The River Dee – Allanmore is valley land very similar to this view
Engraving by A. F. Lydon, 19th century*

1845

In June Angus is desolated by the loss of his "beloved Catherine." His wife, Catherine Gruer, died at 54 years of age and Angus writes to Jane only eight days after her death. A month later Angus has resumed his duties at game watching and is "pacing on Craig Maddie." His letters now contain one of his favourite allusions to being a pilgrim on life's journey: "pilgrimage through the wilderness" is his term now that Catherine is gone. (In the final entry of his diary as he enters his 85th year he describes himself as "a weary pilgrim indeed.") There is a new Factor at the Invercauld Estate, Mr. McLagan, and good relations exist with James Abercrombie, who had previously added a tenancy at Allanmore on the Dee to his holding at Cornalarick in Glen Clunie. The Captain's ship is still at sea and Jane is coping with her daughter's progress at school and her small son's illness.

Glen Clunnie 14th June - 45

My dear Mrs. Fullerton

However long or however pleasant the task of writing to you for many years - at this time - it is a very painful duty the devolves upon me that my beloved Catherine is no more -- on Friday 6th at 2 a.m. after a severe fit of illness in which she retained all her faculties she meekly reclined her drooping head on the bosom of her Redeemer yielded up her spirit to God and gently fell asleep in the arms of the Saviour in whom centred all her hopes - She died without a struggle --- blessed are the dead which die in Peace but my heart is full and would overflow did I not stop and subscribe

Yours in great heaviness A. McIntosh

Glen Clunnie 27th July 1845

My very kind friend

- both your kind letters have come to hand. I thank you for your attention to me at this very painful stage of my pilgrimage through this wilderness - I confess while formerly conveying to you any news from your native vale, I was discharging in some measure - a duty incumbent upon me, do believe me, that duty was rendered light and easy - by the pleasure it afforded me in keeping friendly intercourse with one so much and so long esteemed in my family - but at this time I do confess it is mixed with feelings of pain, of no ordinary degree. Such feelings does not arise from anything on your part, they arise solely from a weakness on my own part - when my thoughts move back and fix on her who on mentioning the safety of the Employ would alone be second to yourself - these thoughts recoil like as many darts, and fix in my heart - she is no more - Catherine is at home with me. She is very attentive to me - as is all my family -

- But there was one above the rest could soothe me when I was oppressed. I am happy in thinking you will soon meet with your partner and all well - I will address this as usual - not knowing the number of your new lodgings - this is the first of my writing since my last Note to you. I am so little inclined to write under my present circumstance - however I must strain a nerve to indulge you - but as my mind is very absent do be so very good as to take the will for the deed - on writing you formerly I generally spoke of deaths births and marriages - but in the late long interval of silence on my part I am aware that you have all from another quarter - however as the events are but few - they will be the sooner run over -

I believe the only death in this place since the 6th June was a son of John Duncan's who was stopping with his grandmother for some little time - he died suddenly. The remains of the late Mrs. Farquharson passed here on Wednesday last, for interment in the family vault and as to births they are confined to one alone - I mean Betty Ferguson who has got a daughter and for Marriages you will have heard of Clementina Mitchell and the convict Lamont and James McKenzie and Sally Brown and Chas. McKenzie (alias) marques⁴⁹ and Ann McIntosh (alias) Lachlan⁵⁰ at present I am not aware of more. Indeed I should have first told you that all friends here at present enjoy a large share of the blessings of health. You will be glad to learn that your Father and our new factor are all one - Mr. McLagan is a fine young man and seems to be very agreeable - much wishing to walk in the footsteps of his predecessor - but opinion as yet must be premature.

Hitherto our summer has been wet and cold for a week back, say from St. Swithins⁵¹ it has been quite hot and dry our crops here is luxuriant and well advanced hay crop very heavy - as I am now pacing on the top of Craig Mattie my breathing time will be contracted for some time - nevertheless I should feel happy to hear from you as usual - please speak of your new lodgings also mention anything you wish to know from this place - I shall endeavour to indulge you (God willing) - after taking a pinch of snuff I have overhauled my letter - and indeed I see nothing in it to render it agreeable or to recommend it to your notice - save only to show my wish to continue friendship - which may God grant I may never be the means of breaking off - mind me to your partner believe me - I much rather write to you and hear from you than see either of you - Long Long may that cup be in filling to you - of which I have lately drank -- farewell farewell Yours & etc A. McIntosh

⁴⁹ Marques may mean Marquis in which case it is a rather sarcastic nickname

⁵⁰ Lachlan may be the name of her father

⁵¹ July 15th

Glen Clunnie 17th Octr -/45

Dear Mrs. Fullerton

- In compliance with your last letter (with which I was duly favoured) I do myself the pleasure to address to you the few following lines from your native vale- and though perhaps not very interesting in their nature - yet truly do I believe they may in some measure convey to you the unlimited pleasure and interest I take in the keeping up friendly communion with one whom I have so long known and esteemed - with gratefulness to the giver - I am enabled to report well of the health of my own and all your friends here - in your letter you made an allusion to my having been across the waters. Indeed it was so - but I did my endeavours to outwit you in that point. I guessed you would be lost to know the writer - However I hope my friend will find it convenient to attend to the call. M. M.'s call was presses your Father's call was in my esteem more charitable = However much he wished him to come - he allowed its inconvenience at that late season - also it curtailed the short time allowed you of enjoying his personal presence and should anything unpleasant occur to either party - he should ever after regret the call but baring these obstacles he wished him to come. - here I have been plain with you and here it may not be far out of place to say the present alluded to in M's letter is a shepherds tartan plaid a very fine one it was showed me.

I am sorry to say the crops are in bad condition first with frost then with daily and heavy rains. The oats are yet uncut - your Father has no sale of crop at Allanmore this season. We had a very good market here - the Allanmore Stots paid well - the Cornlarick top widders 126 pounds shots 1 pound. He also parted with good old Bob for 3 pounds - having bought a fine gray horse at Mr. Roy's roup⁵² and since then a fine brown - Jefs only remains of the old stock.

-perhaps owing to the wind blowing astern, you might not have distinctly heard the thundering noise of cannon and smaller calibre which rent the air at Castletown of last week - however in case you should charge me with writing fiction - I shall only allude to the occasion viz the marriage of Ann McQueen and John McKenzie miller Inverey left here at 10 a.m. in a chaise and pair for Tamintoul, he having taken a mill there. Then I may also tell you that Margaret Gruer (alias) McKenzie has a young son she is at Braegaric.

You know I generally give you a brief outline of marriages, births and deaths. Of the first two classes I have here said all you look for, seeing all parties are well but the bare mention of Death fills one's mind with such awe, particularly a friend or one with whom we are intimate, that we could wish to forebear to mention the case well we may say with the prophet - man is as grass and as the flower of the field - in the morning it flourishes - but in the evening is cut down and withered - man may walk up and down at ease in the morning and in the evening is lying a corpse - this observation was verified on Monday last in the person of Charles Campbell - who died suddenly on that day (particulars afterwards).

I find you have got more convenient lodging now - preferable in many cases must the ground flat be for yourself and children - you made no mention when you expected the Employ however as soon as circumstances admits do us the pleasure of a few lines as we shall look for something very New. I shall be glad to hear that Miss is making progress at school - Alick will be very amusing by this time - we all pray for the Employ's safe return.

Sincerely wishing that you may sleep in time and waken in time as blessed with the first principle of Walter Scot's wives - may you be blessed with the second also.

Yours in friendship A. McIntosh

⁵² Mr Roy, factor at Invercauld was retiring

Glenclemis - 17th Oct - 45

Dear Mr. Fullerton

— In compliance with your last letter (with which I was duly favoured) I send myself the pleasure to address to you the few following lines from your native "vale" — and though perhaps not very interesting in their nature — yet truly, as I believe, they may in some measure convey to you the unlimited pleasure & interest I take in still keeping up friendly communion with one whom I have so long known & esteemed — with gratitude to the giver — I am enabled to report well of the health of my own and all your friends here — in your letter you make an allusion to my having been across the waters in case it was so — but I did my endeavours to contravert you in that point — I guess as you would be loath to know the writer — However I hope my friend will find it convenient to attend to the call — Mr. Mrs. Ball was proper your Father's call was in my esteem more charitable — However much he wished him to come — he allowed its inconvenience at that late season — also that it curtailed the short time allowed you of enjoying his personal presence and should any thing unpleasant occur to either party — he should ever after regret the call — but baring these obstacles he wished him to come —

— here I have been plain with you



Invercauld Arms, Braemar

1846

Writing to Jane in August, Angus tells her that her father, James Abercrombie, will be leaving his tenancy at Cornalarick, and moving his household to his other holding at Allanmore which is some distance away in the valley of the Dee. For Jane this would be one more break in the link she had to Glen Clunie since Cornalarick was her familiar childhood home. In the meantime, work has to be done at Allanmore before the move can be made, either the cottage was being constructed or else renovated. We learn that the Captain has visited the Glen and made a great impression: "all the GO," reports Angus enthusiastically. (Is this Angus taking credit for making a good match?) The Captain has also taken on a new ship, the "Venture," and is away again on fresh voyages. There is a dispute over the valuation of the stock left at Cornalarick and a third man, John Gruer, is called to settle the valuation.

Aberdeen 12th January 1846

Dear Daughter

Received a letter from your husband, he is still friendly to the old cause, am glad that you and him are happy and that you stand so high in his estimation - hopes it will continue. We are all ----- beings, and liable to errors, and shortcomings, failings, etc. Therefore we should be on this account very kind and bare with ours and others burdens and infirmities, ----- with love and good works that no prayers be not answered. As I have always evinced determination for the truth - am determined to do so, for it is only the truth that will make us free indeed. That will stand the test when tested. ----- to you or your husband ----- of facts - which is happy to be known, in opposition to the other.

Without an arm Nelson, could ----- and command a fleet. I have no doubt but that your husband could command a ship without an arm - but although I could manage a farm without -----and make a bad seaman - besides age and other infirmities could not work have come from a surgeon certificate to that effect - but it seems other people know more of my infirmities than the Doctor or me either. Although ----- I hope that this will find you all well. Best compliments to you all and to George.

Your Affect. Father Geo. Fullerton

NOTE: This letter is from Captain Fullerton's father to his daughter in law. George Fullerton was a farmer at Cruden at the time of Captain Fullerton's birth. It is difficult to read the letter, and we surmise that he has lost his arm, or use of his arm. It certainly would explain the illegible handwriting.

Glen Clunnie 4th August 1846

Mrs. Fullerton

I had your letter some time ago and should have answered it before this time - but delayed on purpose, until the letting in this district should be over - now that it is so - I hastily sit down to inform you of those in which you may be most interested - I find that those in Glenshee has all got their farms, only at an advance of rent - Cornalarick is taken by a man from Ceann⁵³ = Loch Rannoch John McDonald leaves Newbigging goes to easter Auchallater William Downie is out McGregor holds Auchalater at an advance of 60 pounds your uncle holds Coldrach including the farms on each side, John Shaw goes to Balinduim - Donald Shaw retires, George Mchardy late of Glen ey holds Balinloine - there is no other alteration in this district. Your Father leaves for Allanmore at first term. And now that our long correspondence seems all but dead, I shall not here fatigue you with uninteresting and perhaps tasteless details. However allow me to lay before you one sad instance connected as it is with your Native Country - On Saturday last as red John Mchardy was driving a horse and cart the horse either stumbled or shyed the man was thrown below the load cart he survived only a few hours - he has left a destitute widow and five children to lament his loss - as M.M. told me some weeks ago that they were to write you then - I may only here add that since that time the weather has been changeable at present very hot and sultry with every prospect of an early and abundant harvest.

Yesterday I was told that my friend had shifted his Craft and as you was silent as to his Craft or the Course he steers - it would ill become me to enquire after him - as perhaps he has become a Smuggler in good earnest - perhaps it may not be thought out of place to say, for your gratification, and my own, that since his late visit to this place he is all the GO - I also had the pleasure of seeing him all by accident - Hopes the children are all doing well - I am happy to be able to say that my family are all well - as also all your friends in this district --

begging our kind regards to you and family

believe me to be with respect

Yours Angus McIntosh

⁵³ Gaelic for head, often used in place names

Glen Clunnie 7th November 1846

Dear Friend

I duly received yours of the 18th October and have delayed answering it owing to intervening circumstances - and even now perhaps I shall not be able fully to meet your wishes - however I proceed to inform you that the day appointed for valuing the Stock was put back a week = as McLaren formerly spoken of had come forward and renewed his bargain and was accepted as tenant in Cornalarick. However last week the valuing took place. Mr. Howison for your Father and Mr. Stuart from the west for McLaren - John Gruer third man - the valuator stood at great odds say 5/- per head - average - so it remains with Gruer to decide. He has not given his decision as yet - however McLaren has got the whole Stock marked over to him say -
 old wedders 500 - 24 shillings per head
 young wedders 700 - 21 shillings
 ewes 350 - 22 shillings
 gimmers 200 - 18 shillings
 lambs 700 - 11 shillings

As the case is not finally decided I shall not hold the above statement entirely correct but believes it not far from the point but I may perhaps afterwards convey to you the right figure as Gruer promises to give it to me. I am sure your Father will not withhold it from - as I am and ever has been a confidant. I find that John has got the charge this winter - a shepherd has come from Rannoch. John left yesterday with the hogs - the present shepherds are all engaged for the season - McLaren does not come before summer (to remain).

I was sorry to learn that your children was badly with the chin-cough⁵⁴ - I hope it will not be severe - you cannot attend them alone it will be too much for you - I hope that before you receive this - you will be in possession of all favourable accounts of the Venture⁵⁵ and at convenience I would esteem it kind should you drop a few lines to that effect = Also saying how the ch[in-cough is] doing - perhaps in due time I may let you know of your Father's removal - should have a wish for it - at present the house at Allanmore is far from being in condition to admit him with comfort - We have still much rain here - James Abercrombie is still in his place - with best wishes to you and yours

I remain

Your willing Correspondent

A McIntosh

P.S. Your father bids you write soon, say how the family is and M. bids you say how you will have the Kit conveyed as it is ready - write tomorrow. A.M.I.

⁵⁴ Whooping cough

⁵⁵ Captain Fullerton's ship



Allanmore from the banks of the Dee – photo by John Duff

1847

It is difficult to imagine James Abercrombie's move "with all his domestic" from Glen Clunie to his new home at Allanmore in the middle of a Highland winter. The move occurs in January and for two days men were clearing snow on the road. From Angus' letters we glimpse something of the hard conditions prevailing at this time. The Corn Laws had been repealed the year before but the price of grain was still excessively high and Angus notes that "the labouring class are suffering much and no provisions are being made for them." As a result "marriages and births are being laid aside." There did exist in Braemar a Friendly Society, however, a very interesting and effective instrument to provide welfare for the poor and the indigent. It began in 1816 and was soon operated by the Wrights to become known as the Braemar Wright Society. (The Wrights are thought to have been the most numerous tradesmen in an isolated community such as Braemar at that time, but were also "at the forefront of technology" with the advent of water powered sawmills. There were two classes of wrights: wheel wrights and square wrights or carpenters. It is a remarkable commentary on rural Scotland in the early 19th Century that this "union" group would organize to provide benefits for the poor. It was a concept which fitted well with the Calvinist ethic of self-help rather than state aid. The rules governing the Society were stringent, only moderated for members from "any other part of the world" which apparently meant more than ten miles distant from Braemar.)

It was from this simple Wright's Society that there emerged over the years the Braemar Royal Highland Society which still holds the Gathering famous now throughout the world. Angus was very familiar with the work of the Society and may have been referring to this when he mentions to Jane that "the poor here are well looked to." In May the weather is still rough and snow has even fallen but Angus is looking forward to Jane's impending summer visit. The year ends with the Clunie again flooding "beyond bounds" and Angus, about to take up his teaching duties has a misunderstanding with a neighbour who will not admit him to teach her family. ("So much for good neighbourhood" remarks Angus.) But at least bread is getting cheaper and marriages are resuming.

Glen Clunnie 11th January 1847

Mrs. Fullerton

I am afraid you will think me becoming tedious to you - having wrote you so lately - but on condition that you shall take it easy this time - I engage not to be troublesome throughout the ----- season ---

-----My sole purpose for writing you at this time is merely to inform you that your Father with all his domestic left Cornalarick on Saturday 2nd for two days previous men were employed cutting the snow along the road - your Kit was lodged with the Carrier same day - you will naturally believe that all was bustle at the time - so much so that I entirely omitted to enquire if you had been apprized of their leaving - However on seeing M.M. yesterday at Church - I enquired and was answered in the negative - I have therefore taken the liberty to write you to that effect - and allow me to add - that it has seldom been my lot to write with feelings more affected than on the present Occasion - Glen Clunnie has lost its head.

I am not aware of anything worth writing since my last and as I writ in haste (as the bearer is waiting) only M.M. bids me say if your Lord could find it convenient they would feel happy in seeing him at Allanmore - at all events they look for a letter soon.

I may here tell you that Miss Mary Watson Glen Corrie died some days ago. Jannet Smith Felegie is also dead = there are several marriages on the taps here but I must leave them anow.

The snow is almost off again we have fine frosty weather - I know you will criticize me on my writing but on purpose to catch the wind I took up the first pen that came to hand

---- you shall have the less of it therefore

with kind regards to you all

I am etc.

McIntosh

Glen Clunnie 15th March 1847

Honoured Madam

I acknowledge the receipt of yours of 14th ulto and should have answered it much earlier. But as Miss Mitchell told me they were anxious to answer your letter of same date and for me to write at same time would only be to pester you. Indeed I could communicate nothing interesting to you. We were sorry to learn that little Alick's suffering was so severe - hopes he has got over it - was also happy to learn that Master and charge had returned & all well - all friends in this quarter are well at present - our weather is still unfavourable for out door work indeed we have some fresh snow but today is rather mild and snow disappearing on low grounds - but on the hills there is no break as yet - our homes has been lonely since 47 commenced but we look for some shepherds by April - we seem still at a loss to know who shall possess Cornalarick - as rumour goes - that Rannoch - has failed to fulfill his - contract - one thing I do know is that the first installment should have been paid at Martinmass - but hitherto no part of it has been forthcoming - the month of April will decide. I flattered myself that in this letter I should have something very new to tell you - but as M.M. has taken the lead it is likely that she has carried all before her - I am sure she has told you of the new tenant - to Newbigging admitting that, should allusion have been made to that subject - it must have been premature and in the absence of her old Clerk - I am apt to believe her silent on that head. I believe then that I shall have the pleasure of informing you - that when you come to call on Mrs. Farquhar - call at Newbigging - thanks to our Uncle for this - as Secretary to - Allanmore - I was entrusted to communicate the above intelligence to James Farquhar yesterday - for his - acceptance. I am in Coryaltie this season the girls are progressing in their learning - both reads as well as their teacher - they commenced writing in January and now writes a fair copy of half text. Mary is back, one degree in writing but equal in reading - John reads his Bible tolerable - Margaret - first book - our new teacher at Castletown Mr. McArthur - has a full school - has many Roman Catholics!! - but no frees - Mr. McQueen having a seminary in Tominrachtan - our country has been tolerable healthy this season - I believe there has been no deaths in this quarter since my last, but Donald Cattanach Croidh-bhoan and the oldest son of Angus McIntosh - Boat house - who did not long survive his mother - and as for marriages and births they are entirely laid aside - till providence sends cheaper bread - meal seems static = 1/10 per boll⁵⁶ and no very plenty at that rate - indeed the poor are here well looked to but the labouring class are suffering much and no provisions are being made for them. Indeed I speak by experience - and my case is not a solitary one.

Your Father called on me yesterday. We was indeed very glad to see him - but Robbie's age was renewed many years - Catherine spent a night at Allanmore last week - I am going next week God willing - it is a beautiful cottage but smokes terribly - hopes to see you here early in the summer - but hopes to hear from you as often as convenient - and now believing that I have squared off - a good day's work for you - I bid you - goodnight - reserving what remains to another opportunity - mind me to Master when you see him -

Catherine begs her regards to you all - Robbie and Eppie⁵⁷ sails in the same channel - and as for your correspondent suffice it to say he feels proud to serve your Ladyship at any time who is in truth and sincerity Yours etc. Angus McIntosh

⁵⁶ Dry measure of weight varies with region, approx. 140 lbs

⁵⁷ Robbie and Eppie are James Abercrombie's shepherds

Glen Clunnie 3rd April 1847

My dear Mrs. Fullerton

I have this moment finished the reading of a conjoint letter - which, I read with mingled feelings of pleasure and pain - as respects myself I was proud indeed to be esteemed worthy the honour of a letter from one so much my superior in life - but as regards you my feelings were hurt - indeed. However - it is as little my intention - as it is my province - to dwell on a subject - to you so harrowing.

Nevertheless I would remind you that in every circumstance in life there is something to console the believing Christian - think not you are alone. You have a dear young family prattling around you to amuse, to divert and occupy the mind which if otherwise - the mind would be apt to over do itself in that - which at present- is naturally uppermost in your bosom -

You have also hither seen much of the goodness of Sovereign power in both preserving you and yours by land and sea which should be to you an inducement to trust him still - not forgetting that it is a duty incumbent on us - to lay our hearts open before the Lord bringing words with us. Your fellow Creatures may at times cause you to forget in some measure your Care - but such is only for a moment - do then draw your consolation at all times from the ever present and immutable God - who has promised the aid and comfort of his holy Spirit to all those who put their trust in him == So shall you be enabled with holy resignation to commit your friend to the Care and protection of Him who formed the Sea - as well as the dry land as well as wisdom to guide and direct you in the Charge of your young pledges. Amen.

- today is very stormy yet I must go the round of the country and try to collect something to steal away your mind for a moment and now after doing so I have not been very successful - However such as it is, here it goes. The only Deaths - here since my last - is a blind woman - Corrumhzie and the old Sheriff. Births none - but very promising events has taken place last week viz - marriages - on Thursday week was married Elizabeth McKenzie bridgend Castletown to Mr. George Miller of Aberdeen married at 10 A.M. started at 12 - for town. Also Castletown of Braemar on Wednesday last - Elisabeth Mitchell - (housekeeper) to Mr. Robert Ewing, Carpenter there (she is in a very promising state) this last marriage passed over very quietly. Indeed I am somewhat cationic in speaking as many letters seems to be opened - I am aware of one being so used - the under half of the envelope had been drawn out - as it was much torn and three wafers applied. Indeed such seems to have been going on for some time past - I was at Allanmore on the afternoon of the fast day - stopped overnight - it will be a very pretty house when finished, it wants plastering but will be proceeded with as soon as weather permits also a new square of offices goes on this season the stock yard is more like one in Strathmore than Allanmore with plenty of seed corn and plenty of meal. Their potatoes was left in the ground over winter much of them is good and free from disease in fact I say with auld Robbie - Come down to the farmers and you'll get roughness there - Indeed as to Cornalarick I think your observation will hold good - However if I am spared you shall soon know all. The weather here has changed for the worse - on Monday last snow began to fall and has continued to do so every day since. Today we have a great deepness of snow over all with intense frost. Auchalater sheep fought their way across the hill yesterday - none come here as yet. Mr. McLaggan⁵⁸ is south to pay the pastures (no good sign) I am sorry you did not see anything of the Kit. I hope to hear from you as often as convenient while I shall load you with everything new worth the carrying - mind me to my friend if opportunity permits - we shall live in the fond hope seeing you once more -

⁵⁸ New Invercauld factor

as to your number each of you may have to ----- [too faint to read] not
interfere with the present family -

I have excused my friend's briefness do you excuse mine - C. joins in her regards
to you and family - and believe me sincerely

Yours A. McIntosh

Glen Clunnie 22nd May 1847

Mrs. Fullerton

Your long looked for letter came to hand on Sabbath - I was not made aware of your having wrote to Allanmore until I read your letter - Indeed, as for my letters - the answering of them is only looked for - as Inclination and Convenience serves - but any letters through me in which your Father is concerned - I should esteem it very kind to give an early answer - as you observe the weather has been very rough in general and still continues so. Monday last we had fresh snow, even on low ground with high winds - wind and rain every day - so that vegetation is only beginning to progress - this is a very busy week on this waterside = rousing and preparing to remove - there was a roup at Dalinduie on Wednesday - also - at Balinduim and easter Auchalater on Thursday - all has gone off in Style = Your Correspondent = does not feel himself called upon at this time to give a minute detail of all the Circumstances connected with your Native Vale - However there are some things which I cannot deny myself the pleasure of Communicating to you - even tho we do hope to have the pleasure soon to Communicate all to you in person - if then I be your only reporter in this quarter you may not have heard of the Melancholy Death of one of Charles McDonald's (late of Gleneye) children who by accident fell into the river eye and was drowned - and what rendered the case more trying neither Father nor Mother were at home. Charles having taken a farm south of Edinburgh he was there at the time - he leaves Braemar next week - my next report is different - viz Elizabeth Mitchell - now Mrs. Ewing - last week presented Robbie a daughter as an addition to his family Circle -- Mother and Child are doing well - I believe you will recollect of the Marquis and Ann McIntosh some short time ago - left for Hungary by way of a marriage jaunt - the same identical pair passed by here last night to Auld Auchindreyne - the other (Lovie) Emigrants are on their way home - I also had a call - (it was nothing else) from James Abercrombie Lublea he spent 20 minutes with his Father stopt over night at Inver & Marched next day.

One other report & I have done and while I endeavour tho bluntly to lay before you this last report - I beg of you as a decent Matron and Mother!! to keep your gravity!! Indeed I must confess in such matters I am not equal to the task that here devolves upon me. However you must know it all - bear it as best you may - I am now on my way to Castletown and take this letter along with me - well - what of that - James Abercrombie shepherd here = is with me = well - what of him /// we are going to the Session Clerk - well what then - to get Jamie booked !! he will be a bridegroom the morn = James is really a bridegroom having been proclaimed in the Kirk of Crathy last Sabbath - will be proclaimed here tomorrow and married on Saturday 20 Inst the Bride stops near Alyth somewhere and answers to the name of Isabella Stuart⁵⁹ - stops with her Mother - is a handsome woman of 30 very respectable & industrious - and should James spin a long yarn Isabella will shortly convert it into cloth - and no mistake - I never saw the woman but those that have seen her speak well of her - hope you will in Scotland before the wedding comes on - Mr. McLaren having failed to perform his engagement - I find the stock is to be valued a second time - this is no concern of your Father's - it is between the Laird and McLaren what ever worse the stock be McLaren is the loser and, if better, so is his funds.

⁵⁹ Register of Marriage, Parish of Braemar, County of Aberdeen, Scotland: "May 29 James Abercrombie shepard residing in Coimalarick of this parish and Isabella Stewart in the parish of Bendochy were married."

Your Father and Mr. McLagan was here lately engaging all their former shepherds - John has the oversight in the absence of your Father - but the old bou! has the whole charge - and worthy the trust. And now me thinks I have spun a long yarn to you -- sufficient to be a cloak if you handle properly.

- hoping to see you soon I shall put up my pen for a Season - our kind love to you and family = Good News from abroad and a pleasant trip to Scotland -

I am with respect - yours &
Angus McIntosh

Glen Clunnie Nov 21 1847

Mrs. Fullerton

Your letter which informed us of your safe arrival at home - also informed us of your fatiguing and perilous Sea Voyage - and both from yourself and friends calls aloud for gratitude to that omnipotent being - who commands the raging seas and they obey him - we hope that, neither yourself and family was nothing the worse for it - only I should guess your faith was nearly failing you - at least I must confess, I should much prefer climbing the rocky mountains of Glen Clunnie - to the more softer mountains of the German ocean⁶⁰ - and now in my turn of duty I inform you that friends here are well at present - But in attempting to give you anything in shape of News - I am at a loss how or where to begin - in fact our country is so barren of anything interesting that was it not for the place I hold or rather the name I bear - I would sit down and please you - or rather treat you with fiction - However having begun the communication for another season I intend filling my sheet with such stuff as first comes to hand -- I will tell you then that since the time you left we have had very changeable weather on the 7th Octr we had what you call high water - our rivers was flooded beyond bounds and did much damage in many places. Since then - in general we have had two wet days and one dry - alternately on Wednesday last we had another flood - Since then we have some snow - still our country is healthy and I have only two deaths to report since your leaving - that- of our first representative old Adam and old Wm Downie the public press will have apprised of the death of the Revd Mr. Drummond - Kirk Michael. Now turn I to more cheering scenes viz - Marriages - thanks to kind providence bread is getting cheaper and men are mustering up their courage - John McDonald - alias Robbie has broke the ice and led the way - on Tuesday last - the name of the woman I have not learned she comes from near Aberdeen - Next goes Angus Mitchell - with his former housekeeper - who called on him lately - carrying something in her arms which she presented to him - with documents demanding the fulfilment of former promise - or stand the consequences perhaps in the present instances = of two evils he chose the least - he is a bridegroom - Next in courage figures our worthy Deacon the tailor - Robert Grant - also groom to Mrs. McDonald - housekeeper Corriemulzie Cottage - there is a new set of servants at Allanmore - Ann Eggo figures in the kitchen - the servant man is a brother of Jamie Coutts formerly here. There are no changes of shepherds here. Your Father - continues to superintend the stock - he is often here - Owing to the misunderstanding existing between Mrs. Farquhar and me - I shall not be admitted to teach her family this season - so much for good neighbourhood - James Farquhar goes as usual with the ewes over winter - but Mary has got a fine young woman to keep her easy over winter - I believe I have now gone the round of the country - and shall conclude by begging my regards to the Captain to the family and to yourself

-and believe me

-Sincerely Yours A MacIntosh

⁶⁰ The North Sea

Now turn I to more cheering scenes
 of Marriages - Thanks to kind Providence
 bread is getting ^{thinner} and men are mustering
 up their courage - John McDonald - alias Collier
 has broke the ice and led the way - on
 Tuesday last ^{name} the woman I have not
 learned - she comes from near Aberdeen
 - Next goes Angus Mitchell - with his
 former house keeper - who called on him
 lately - carrying something in her arms
 which she presented to him - with
 Documents demanding the fulfilment
 of a former promise - or stand the consequen-
 ces perhaps in the present instance -
 = if two evils be chose the last - he
 is a bridegroom - Next is George
 figures - our worthy Deacon the
 Factor - Robert Grant - also
 = groom to Mrs McDonald - house keeper
 comes up at ^{midnight} - there is an increase
 of servants at all as more - Ann Egga
 figures in the kitchen - the servant room
 is abrother of Samy's latter formerly here



Highland Games at the estate of Invercauld

1848

In June Angus writes anxiously to Jane regarding the Captain's poor health, another burden for a young mother and wife to bear. He speaks of waiting for Jane's next letter in suspense "that killing creature." But the "hitherto quiet glen is astirring" as the change of tenancy at Cornalarick has caused disruption for auld Robbie who is removed from his accommodation. Robbie takes his troubles to Angus and, fortified with some dew drops, Angus is soon laying the problem before the Factor and apparently has Robbie restored. The summer season is "propitious beyond precedent" and Angus has time for mellow thoughts, telling Jane that her letters "brings to my mind days long gone by." Jane gives birth to her third child and does not return to the Glen that summer. The Captain is away at sea again when their baby dies. This is also the year that Victoria and Albert lease Balmoral causing Braemar to leap to prominence and Scotland to become "Balmoralized" in the description of one historian. In September the Queen attends the Gathering for the first time and Angus witnesses the procession of carriages on their way to Invercauld House for the event. The country, he reports, "is full of fashionables at present." It is the beginning of the wave of gentry who will arrive in Scotland to acquire estates now that the Queen and Prince Consort have made the country fashionable. But by October the mood has changed. Angus feels the onset of an early winter as "wind and snow is driving furiously" and since the crops are still much exposed, "this is Serious." The reader catches a sense of the terrible vulnerability of the Glen to the harsh climate of the Highlands. But the sea is equally uncertain and at the end of the year the "Venture" and its Captain have still not returned.

Glen Clunnie 17 June 1848

Dear Madam

Your northern reporter finding himself under accumulating obligations - does himself the pleasure of tendering to your Ladyship this his first instalment - leaving one still on the wrong side of the sheet ----

Yours of 3rd May hurt my feelings very much having entered into your feelings at that time and the Circumstances under which you wrote I confess, I became a child and never did I look more anxiously for the return of a beloved absent friend, - than for your Second letter - Come it did - and for the time removed suspense - that Killing Creature - I hope my friend's health is perfectly established = and now I may tell you that we of the Glen have lived in suspense tho of a different nature - McLaren of which I formerly spoke should have been here on the first May - and daily rumours reached us that he would not come at all - I therefore delayed writing until I could speak decisively and now I can tell you that some men and cattle from Rannoch landed here yesterday forenoon - the family comes next week - the cows are of the first breed of bashan⁶¹ each cow has her calf following her - only one dairy cow - there are two families coming - so that both Cornalarick and Corygaltie will be needed - this has put our hitherto quiet glen astirring - viz - John MacKintosh being settled in Corygaltie he must remove to give place to Rannoch - his wife a Northern Snowdrop & of rather morocco tinge must have auld Robbie removed to give place to her - but I shall not describe Robbie's feelings on receiving notice - he made his Complaint to his wise Neighbour - and finished with the dew drops of '82 flowing in abundance - I was much touched with the new abuse which made the old tears to flow and in less than two hours I saw myself in Auldowrie Cottage laying the whole before Mr. McLaggan - and by force of mountaine Simplicity - (not eloquence) I melted him, he dismissed me with an assurance - which gladdened the heart of Robbie.

I may also tell you that Charles McIntosh is the only remaining Shepherd of the olden times - John Abercrombie has remained here till yesterday - he goes to Allanmore - James has been more fortunate - he has got in to be shepherd to Mr. Scott of whom he holds his house the sheep parks are close, or near to his house so that he is quite at home - there is nothing new worth reporting from here - by the bye - Angus Eggo, son of Donald Eggo is off to America with a gentleman - and that gentleman = no less a personage than Peter Duncan son of John Duncan. They shipped last week at Aberdeen - perhaps you have seen them on their way to Devonshire as Mr. Duncan there entered the blessed state - then jaunts to America to take possession of his property there - but as your reporter never goes abroad I come now to tell you the weather in your Native Vale has this season been and still is propitious beyond precedent - never did I see a richer appearance at this period of the Season than at the present time - for instance in my garand⁶² here my potatoes was hoed last week - is ready for earthing up, my onions is undergoing a second weeding - good berries and currants in full form - field crops in proportion - sheep shearing is to commence at Newbigging on Monday. So, the busy time here is fast on us - will your Ladyship not come down to give us a helping hand - but why mar my own pleasure, indeed while you are in Sunderland I have the pleasure of your letters when even your signature brings to my mind days long gone by - whereas when you are here - I am denied your letters, your presence as much as if it were sinful - be it so, perhaps before you shall again breathe our northern air I may be removed to the Land of rest and

⁶¹ Reference to "strong bulls of Bashan" in Psalm 22, Verse 12

⁶² Probably garden or ground

my place filled up by a more competent reporter - but never by a more willing one --
continue him then while he lives and oblige him who desires at all times to be
remembered to your Husband & my friend - and to all your family & to yourself
personally --- I am Respectfully Yours &
A MacIntosh

PS Write as soon as convenient - A.McI.

Glen Clunnie 14 September, 1848

Mrs. Fullerton

My last to you bore date of 17th. of June and your answer which reached me in due order of post bears date of 26th. August a considerable relapse. Yet I find you have not been idle - I congratulate you on the extension of your family circle - at the same time grateful to a merciful Providence who sustained you in time of trouble and restored to you again the partner of your days - and I hope soon to hear that the same kind Providence will gladden your heart by seeing your little baby recovering strength day by day. However - I need not remind you that submission is a duty. I feel seldom at a loss for matter when writing to my friend but I must confess at present matters crowd upon me. However the 12th of July was a very hot day - we were busy cutting peats when our attention was arrested by three open carriages well loaded with livestock approached our cottage. We was not long kept in suspense who these belonged to - when they shaped their way to Cornalarick they were followed by eleven well-laden carts = furniture. The house opposite is inhabited by the old man, two sons and a daughter, three shepherds, two workmen, a boy and servant woman. The house of Corygaltie is occupied by the third son, his wife and five children. John McIntosh was turned out of their service - he is now in John Shaw's former house. I have found the people very agreeable as yet.

But they will never to my sheiling⁶³ so humbly come ben = as my friend Ambercrombie auld Chief of the glen but I must hasten to speak of the present topic of the day viz the Queen - this day in which I address my countrywoman will long be remembered by the people of Braemar - you will understand that the Braemar gathering was put back to this day in the hope that the Sovereign of Great Britain would condescend graciously to countenance the meeting. Today this hope is realized and as the castle is occupied by a hundred men of Ninety-third Highlanders Mr. Farquharson has appointed the gathering to be held at Invercauld House, where, not only the society but all the tenantry in the district are invited to attend. A large pavillion is erected on the lawns where a sumptuous dinner is to be provided for them in honour of Her Majesty's visit. The Duke of Athol brings 80 Highlanders and Captain Ogilvie 40. Her Majesty comes by 6 o'clock.

I have numbered upwards of 200 persons pass by here this morning - and upwards of 20 carriages burdened - I shall suppose a tourist passing through Strathavon, Livate, Strathdone and Strathgairn, Glen Shee and Glen Isla he should see no person save old men of 90 or old matrons of 80, nursing children - perhaps of a day old - the question would be natural where are the people gone to - the answer is soon given - they have gone to see the Queen - on Invercauld's bowling green.

As the body of this letter has been written in the forenoon of the auspicious day I must stop until my reporters arrive - meantime I may tell you that Mr. Farquharson with a Chosen few (of whom was Cousin John) met the Queen at Ballater and got a gracious reception. Her Majesty and Consort attended Divine Service at Crathie on Sabbath, by the way - Charles McDondald alias suitor shipped at Glasgow by the Mary Morrice for Canada Wednesday week..

Friday, 15th. I find that I can add little more save only that all seemed well pleased having got a sight of the Queen and Prince Albert to their heart's content - she walked openly before them.

⁶³ Shepherd's hut or humble dwelling

Suffice it to say that a splendid ball was got up after dinner which was kept up to an early hour this morning. The number of people collected at Invercauld⁶⁴ yesterday was upwards of 3,000 - enough. I have no space for country news in this sheet but I cannot avoid saying that our country has suffered from frost - the whole of the potato crop is destroyed and also the beare⁶⁵ and last night we had a severe frost - I fear the oats has suffered. All friends here are in good health. Our country is full of fashionables at present but the weather all along has been generally wet and sports on the moors very limited. Gentlemen in consequence will leave sooner than usual. May I hear from you again as soon as convenient. My kind regards to Captain Fullerton and family and to yourself personally. A. McIntosh

⁶⁴ Invercauld was the home of Captain Alwyne Farquharson. Farquharsons were part of Clan Chatton

⁶⁵ Barley

Glen Clunnie 18th Octr 1848

Mrs Fullerton

Yours reached me in due order of post. I was sorry indeed to hear of the death of your Child - but happy to learn how much you seemed resigned - Since writing you last I have had severe suffering in my house. Catherine has been very ill and what added to my trouble of body and mind - was that all my neighbours - supposing it to be fever gave all their domestics orders not to come near my house - so that I was left alone in the midst of trouble - but the good hand of God was visibly with me for as was my day - so indeed was my strength - I was enabled to watch her day and night unmolested - now she is on foot again & in a fair way.

- I hope you are in possession of good news from the Venture - or perhaps in possession of her Captain which would be much better - today is very stormy we feel the rigour of early winter, a deal of snow on the ground - and wind and snow driving furiously - this is Serious and so much of the crop still exposed -- indeed the crops here are all cut -but little carried in, Glen Shee they are - say half harvest - I am at all times - and under all circumstances - desirous to amuse you with the passing events in your Native land - at present - however - I might be out of place to presume - as perhaps the state of your mind - (owing to your late bereavement) may be such as to Consider any such trifling matters as I generally write - insipid and out of place - but as I believe the mind is not capable of always dwelling upon one theme while in its imperfect state without being hurt - believing then that by - varying the Scene the mind is improved - on these grounds then, I venture briefly to give you a few of the events of the day - and they being of a happy tendency they may not be uninteresting to you - the first is your (one day) brides maid - May Coutts - is now actually the bride of Wm Mchardy Balloch while Mary Calder is the wife of James Stuart (blacksmith) - And - last tho not least - is Ann Gruer who on Monday week morning was taken ill with an internal disease peculiar to women, friends stood around but could not ease her pain - at last some wise woman came who so understood her trouble as to be able to remove the Cause and to present it to the wounding sympathisers who stood by - it was a female emigrant from a New Colony - of which no one had the least previous notice - however among the many that went to see the Strange Lady was Craigie John⁶⁶ - who immediately recognized the Stranger - acknowledged her his relation - ordering her to be attended - and now that the priest has set all to rights again - Johnny and Annie and the young intruder sleeps in one bed unmolested, man - wife & daughter - I may also tell you the two first mentioned ladies are also in fashion - also on Saturday last a lady called late at my house for lodging - she turned out to be the famous Bell McDougal, she was married two weeks ago to a carpenter in Edinburgh - all right again -

And now I think I have exhausted my store - and must now take my leave of you - for the time - hoping that all goes smooth with you . I bid you farewell

Remember me to your friend and mine, my regards to all your family and to yourself personally and believe me - ever respectfully Yours A MacIntosh

⁶⁶ We believe that Craigie John is John MacDonald from Craigview, Inverey

Glen Clunnie 23rd Decr 1848

Dear Mrs F

I duly received your letter and was not a little surprised to understand that you was still alone - as by this time I had anticipated my friend to be lying at ease - perhaps I should not have wrote you before January - had it not been for the many disasters I read of at sea and heavy winds we frequently have on land which has made me uneasy - and will be so until I hear of his safe arrival at home also the state of his health adds greatly to my desire to trouble you once more to send me a few lines as soon as you get a breathing time after his landing in Sunderland -

I am happy to be able to say that all friends here are well at present - I write to James Abercrombie tomorrow. I shall not forget you -

Our friends in Cornalarick has taken a large farm near Kerrymuir - part of them goes immediately - we have fine open weather, no snow and but till last night very little frost - I am not aware of any news worth sending you at this time - save only that Dr. Haynes is to be married in a few days to Miss Smith - Ferrar - and that old Donald McKenzie is no more - I may also tell you Thomas Howieson old Spittal - was married last week to Miss Grant - New Spittal - I shall now take leave - wishing you and family a Merry Christmas & a happy New Year

Who am your Sincere friend A. MacIntosh



Glen Clunie in the morning mists – photo by John Duff

1849

The year opens sadly. "Disease is prevalent in our country at present." We learn that scarlet fever has killed several children and "what the medical men call Cholera" has struck. Angus hopes a keen frost will purify the tainted air. He is shut up with the heavy storms and in March his peats are "all but done." In Jane's world the uncertainty persists. The "Venture" has still not returned in March and to lighten Jane's worries, Angus tells her that the Captain must have gone "aprospecting" to California and will return loaded with gold. But April brings Jane the news that Angus is very sick. It is his son who responds to Jane's letter as Angus is too ill to write. The countryside continues to suffer with illness, cold and storms. In November Angus has taken up his pen again. Jane has been home in the summer visiting her father at Allanmore and many called on her there to pay their respects but Angus has missed her, apparently unable to leave his duties as game watcher. The Captain meanwhile is off in a new ship and Jane is again alone with her young family.

Glen Clunnie 27th January 1849

My dear Mrs F

Yours posted on the 19th came to hand on the 21st giving us to know of your own, and family's well being - and though the Circumstance of our friend being overtaken with the Gale - would have been too much for us to have witnessed - as even the bare thought of it after the danger is over - is harrowing to the feelings - poor fellows - Supernatural Strength must have been afforded them to have stood it out we can never be enough grateful to that Mercifull Providence who spared their lives - I fear lest our friend's health - should suffer - from what he must have endured at the time - Yet let us hope on hope ever may that hope be realized -

I confess I was surprised on learning of the remisness of your friends in the North. I have been frequently led to believe that in a great measure they were remiss but not to the extent you complain of but as inflation of Crime - I must say that what I would here look upon as a lack of paternal duty - does not arise from a want of paternal Love - or paternal affection - I could convince you the reverse is the case and I do believe I am justified in saying - that for many years back - I have shared that man's confidence in a Large Measure - but pardon - this is a family matter, allow me then to say that as the man cannot indulge you in his Autograph it is not always Convenient to employ others - It must at all events be an oversight in me - when I write to you not to mention your Father - indeed at times I am at a loss - as I never see any of them save at Church and should the Dee be flooded as is often the case - they are prevented from coming to Church. However - as far as I am aware - they are all in their usual health - their man servant is a stranger to me - but the maid servant is Margaret Mitchell Sister to M. M. - Old Annie is with Angus Mitchell - the rush or Scarlet fever has for some time been over running this Country - Some Children have died - at present John McIntosh's family are all badly whilst himself is away at shepherding.

I feel pleased that James wrote you - distance has not abated our friendship - but should he cross the broad waters - our Communion may be classed among the things that were. Nothing has transpired here since my last to you worth sending over the waters - the weather is open - only a sprinkling of snow - but furious storms of winds and rain - I am quite idle this season was it not for orders sake I could write every day for amusement, you may guess so, by the length of my letters - as soon as my friend has arived do me the favour to write a few lines to that effect - then most likely I shall not know anything from your side for sometime to come - by the bye - Allow me to thank you for the paper you sent - it proved good pastime.

Catherine joins her regards with mine to you and family & believe me your ever well wisher

A. McIntosh

Glen Clunnie March 2nd 1849

My dear Mrs Fullerton

I was favoured with yours of 17th by which I find that your boys have had the measles - hope they are fast recovering - I was happy to find that the Venture was again in her element - may she glide smoothly to her destined haven - Indeed I should feel happy should her Commander incline to spend his after days in a less perilous situation --- we do indeed rejoice to learn that you are amind to visit your friends in Braemar this Season - we hope - nothing will occur to alter your mind on that point - truly I think your Father is failing in person very much notwithstanding his health is tolerable - Mary Mchardy is with her Mother over winter - but! but! but! for the pleasure of your Ladyship - and family - I guess she will be in all readying to attend you on your arrival - I had a letter from our friend at Laggan he seems to have wrote you at same time - Cousin John is at shepherding in the Low South with a gentleman farmer - all other friends here are well - disease is very prevalent in our Country at present - and tho not very fatal yet some have fallen a prey to what the Medical men call Cholera - two old persons have died last week - of the above disease - viz - Widow Mitchell Auchallater - and Widow Miller - (alias) irvack⁶⁷ Inverey - many more are suffering severely from the same disease - but now that we have got a heavy storm and keen frost - we shall hope that the tainted air will be purified before the warm weather strikes in - at all events we hope our Country will be clear of disease before you come a pilgrimage to it -

As far as I am aware your friends here has hitherto escaped from any attacks of the prevailing diseases - I have not been so fortunate - I had a severe attack - but thank God I am fast getting over it - Angus and Margaret has been very ill, a letter from Angus says he was so ill as to baffle all external applications - and therefore it was found necessary to try internal operations in the throat - to stop mortification which was fast gaining ground - but thanks to the Mercifull providance - they are now both doing well -

--Snow has been fall thick for 24 hours and still continues - we are almost shut up, many here will be badly off for fodder - this storm has come very unexpectedly - I wish my friend would steer this way with a load of coals - my peats are all but done - whilst I am writing this I am feeling very cold indeed - I must not omit to tell you that ever since Auld Robbie heard of the Venture suffering from stress of weather - he has called regularly every second day - for tidings - I may also tell you that he has put away both his wives - he has been alone for sometime - he tells me he never was more happy in his life time - so I guess the Ladies need not set their caps at Robbie - in fact he has half converted myself - tho I was half a mind to go once more aprospecting, perhaps you may laugh at the men of Aultmlait idea of housekeeping but your laugh won't reach them.

-- believing that your next letter will speak of my friend's personal presence in No 33 - I shall wait for it with anxiety -

--With kind regards to yourself and family Circle - I remain with due respect - yours & A. MacIntosh

⁶⁷ Irvack may be her husband's nickname

Glen Clunnie 28th March 1849

My dear Mrs Fullerton

I have your letter of the 13th before me - and I must confess it is not the most cheering I have had from the same quarter - but I have come to the full determination that our friend has been deceiving us all the while - as I am fully impressed with the idea that he and his men - has Ventured a prospecting to California and will return loaded with Gold - and if so when you are settled in some Lovely Mansion - may I not hope to occupy some humble office wherein to pass the remainder of my days = was it only to clean your honour's shoes -

but I fear I shall fail to persuade you into my Idea - I must hope on still that the time for realizing your present anticipation be not far distant perhaps before this reaches you - you may be in possession of favourable tidings - grant it may be so -

I hope, however, that patience will be a ruling principle with you as hitherto it has been - and tho hope deferred makes the heart sick - still let patience have her proper work - never forget that man's adversity is God's opportunity - trust him with your all - leave your humble petitions at the Mercy Seat and God in due time will grant you an Answer of peace - believe in him - and he will bring it to pass

- truly in reading your las letter I was lost to know whether to feel most for my friend battling with the tempestuous elements - or for her to whom I am now addressing these simple lines - the former must have suffered much in body and mind - I do truly feel for him - but to enter into the feelings of the latter - the Woman - the Mother - the Partner - it quite overpowers my own feelings - but perhaps I have dwelt to(o) long on this gloomy theme - live then in patient hope prove yourself of the true Mountain race tho a Cloud may envelop your brow the rays that smile on yonder deck will shortly smile on you

I saw your Father on Sabbath - he is in very good health at present. All other friends in this quarter are well. Old Robbie joins me in thanking you for the paper sent to us - we have very stormy weather at this time, keen North winds with some snow - Spring work is far advanced - sowing of oats all but finished - our Country is now quite healthy - the flocks are hastening from Winter pasture - do not fail to convey to us those good news that gladdens your own heart - believe me they will gladden ours also - mind me to our Naval friend when you meet - my regards to your family, and to yourself personally - and believe me - respectfully yours A Macintosh

Glen Cluny April 8th 1849

Mrs. Fullerton

As I chanced to be here today I have just taken the present opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of Captn. Fullerton's letter which came to my father's hand last night - this will be sufficient to let you know that he is not in such a state of health as he could have wished - but still we have great cause to be thankful that matters are no worse, for since he was very weak till yesterday, few that saw him have but very faint hopes of his recovery, but I have reason to believe now that the worst is past (thank God) there has been such bad trouble very prevalent in this Country for some time past - he was seized by it about 3 weeks ago, inflammation followed and a swelling in the ----- of course his stomach failed, & all those troubles at one time, has reduced him very much - but under the kind hand of providence, I hope he shall be able bye & bye to write you himself -- there has been a great many deaths in Braemar this Spring, most part old and infirm persons, your father & friends are all in good health, all the members of this family ask to be remembered to you & hoping they shall hear from you soon

--- I remain your well wisher Angus McIntosh⁶⁸

⁶⁸ Angus McIntosh's eldest son (also named Angus)

Ault Mhait 10th November 1849

My dear Mrs F

If possible I write you with more than usual pleasure because owing to my failing to see you before you left here combined with your protracted silence I was brought painfully to believe that our hitherto uninterrupted friendship had come to an untimely end - I was therefore rejoiced to have yours, the more so as you did not seem to reproach me - I was troubled in not hearing sooner how you and family got home - however, I am glad to find all well - still I find you a widow - be it so - you are at home - your family will do much to comfort you - and the hope that hitherto has borne you up will do so still -

You would be surprised not to see me at Allanmore - indeed had I gone I should have failed of my purpose - viz - to spend my short time with you - in this I should either fail or offend - also my former liberty was curtailed - our assistant watcher was a creature of Mr McLaggans - a spey⁶⁹ William Stuart has found it so - he has lost his situation. Even now Macrostitie the assistant has got his place - thus you see it was no easy matter to be out of the way for a moment - well then - many called on you there - perhaps my heart was as warm as those who paid their respects to you in person - then at the gathering I sent an apology by Catherine - she also failed to meet with you - I am sorry to find that you did not enjoy yourself - your happiness being more where it should have been otherwise = such treatment was no new thing to you -

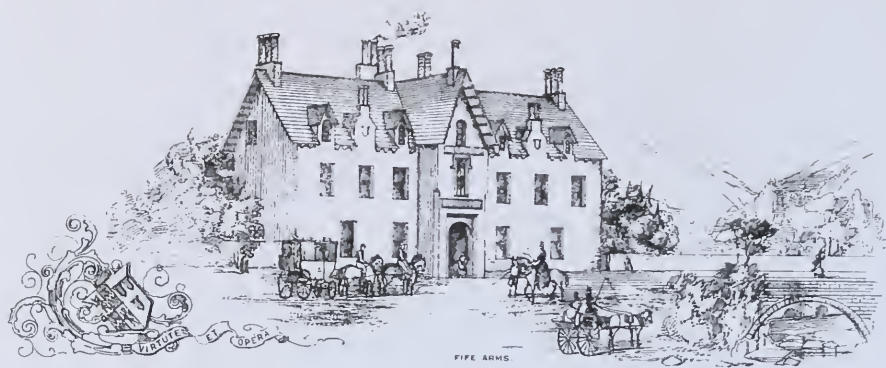
However - I shall not soon forget your kindness in calling on poor us - as well as for your very kind present to me which I much esteem and should have acknowledged in person - but you know the gallantry of mountaineers - this being the first of the Season I am not prepared with anything new to amuse you --

Cousin James has been here for two weeks and no prospect of leaving soon - perhaps he may write you - he is sadly disappointed - he wants the needfull - I hope you will write at convenience it does afford me much pleasure to hear of my noble friend's recovered health as also having got such a good vessel. I may only here say that none of your friends ever said to me what time you left or how you got home or if you got home at all - I believe your lady's maid when at Ault mhait took notes and afterwards published them - nothing to regret I suppose not so far, as I am concerned - should anything amusing or interesting take place in the north I shall not fail to publish it in the south -

Catherine joins with me in our regards to your family - begging of you to accept the same and believe me ever your faithful friend A McIntosh

⁶⁹ Spy

You would be surprised not to see me
 At Allamore - indeed how I go I should
 have failed
 ++ of my purpose - Up to spend my short time
 with you - in that I should either fail or
 offend - Also my former liberty was
 curtailed - our assistant watchman was
 a creature of Mr. McLoggins - a spy
 - William Stewart who found it so
 he has lost his situation - even now
 Macrostie the assistant has got
 his place - thus you see it was no easy
 matter to be out of the way for some
 = ent - west then - many callers on you
 there - perhaps my heart was as warm
 as the whole party their respects to you
 in person - then at the gathering
 I sent an apology by Catherine
 She also failed to meet with you
 I am sorry to find that you did not
 enjoy Gallop - your happiness being more
 where it should have been otherwise
 = such treatment was no new thing to you



Fife Arms Hotel, Braemar

1850

In February heavy snow has delayed the mail to Braemar but provisions are cheap and good meal can be purchased for /12 per boll. However, young men from the glen are thinking of emigrating in search of work. Angus is teaching this year in his own house. He also mentions Mr McQueen's school, and a Castletown Girls' School. Education is still high on the local agenda. The Glen has been bustling all winter with plans for a turnpike across Cairnwell. The route is surveyed and 1,000 pounds in government support apparently is promised but it is opposed by the tenants and plans are withdrawn. Angus as usual intervenes between Jane and her father who feels that she has been remiss in not writing to him. Fortunately, the breach is healed because this is to be James Abercrombie's last year.

Glen Clunnie 12th Febr'y 1850

My dear Mrs. F

I am in receipt of your letter - but owing to the heavy snow storm it was ten days after date before reaching here - we was happy to hear that you were all well, and that you had heard from your Caro - your letters are always most interesting when bearing intelligence of him that is absent - I have not as yet been at Allanmore - your Father as usual at this Season is troubled with rheumatism - all the domestics remains as you left them save only that Charles McDonald - easter auchallater is there as littleman - for two months back the weather here has been stormy with heavy snow so much so that mail to Braemar has been at times three days due - at present we have heavy snow - but provisions are cheap good meal is bought at Castletown for /12 per boll.

Auld Robbie has been very ill - but is now quite well again - all your friends in this quarter are well - except your uncle Donald who is poorly. He has been close confined to bed since you left here - I think he will not hold out long - today is committed to earth the remains of old Donald Gruer Inverey - John Gruer is and has been for some time with Dr Sheriffs under medical treatment he is in a fair way - Cusin James is still at Coldrack doing nothing - I have little to amuse you at this time - - should I be spared to write you again I think I shall be able to give you (if not interesting) at all events more amusing tales from your native Vale - by the bye - I may tell you that on gude yule day Alex Lamont alias Allie Mey⁷⁰ was united to Mary Watson⁷¹ Auchindryne - she remains with her Mother and he at Fife Arms - I shall add little more at present save only that I am this Season engaged with Mr McLaren's family as teacher. I have them in my own house - your friend Mary sent her son to Mr Mcqueen's School - you are aware that a formal school has been got up at Castletown taught by a Miss Dunbar from Crieff. She has at present 40 girls. She teaches the ordinary branches, knitting, sowing & amongst her pupils may be seen Mary Farquharson Newbigging---

Should I have omitted any here - which you wished to be informed on, please to let me know. I shall at all times be happy to indulge you - please to acquaint us with any notice coming from your Caro - Catherine joins in her regards to you and family

And believe me

Your well wisher Angus McIntosh

⁷⁰ Allie Mey is a nickname, Allie short for Alexander and Mey could be a nickname or his mother's name (May)

⁷¹ The Watsons had the Invercauld Arms Hotel

Glen Clunnie 30th March 1850

Dear Mrs F.

Forgive me this liberty - in writing you again so soon - hopes you will do so the latter - when I tell you that I am quite idle - at this time - and believing as I do, that you are too much engaged in the management of your family to allow yourself - perhaps the pleasure of writing to your friends so often as you otherwise would do - I do myself the pleasure of informing you that I called at Allanmore on Wednesday last and remained there until Thursday evening and I must say I never experienced more kindness - they are all well - your father was indeed very cheerful - he says he wrote you some time since and not having got any answer - he seems to think you more remiss than usual I urged the same reasons - quoted in my own letter - for which he made allowance - Since the month of October there has been a bustle here for getting across Cairnwell (a turnpike) Mr. Farquharson got engineers and had the line surveyed applied for an Act of parliament - also -government support - and 1000 pounds was granted the Fife trustees got up a petition - signed by all their tenantry here transmitted it (to) the Council board - which had the effect of causing government to withdraw their support - Mr. Farquharson withdrew his bid - so the case is lost for the present and perhaps for ever ---

Perhaps you may have heard of the death of Cusin Andrew Abercrombie Tailor - who died some weeks ago - his brother James went to Abdn to the funeral - and I may tell you James left this place last week in search of a situation - and a letter last night informs me of his being on the Constabulary force in Musselburgh having given up his idea of emigrating - you will by this time have heard of the infatuated Alex Stuart who lies in perth Jail charged with having sold lots of sheep taken in by him to winter pasture - by which your uncle at Coldrach has in part suffered - Margaret Cattanach is an unfortunate woman - all their effects are sequestered the Mother with three children left in misery - I leave you to picture the state of her mind --

in my last I omitted to tell you that John & James Abercrombie had taken winter pasture and bought sheep on their own account - they have at present on turnup feeding them for the market = I thought I should have to report - the marriage of Peter Roy who has walked the Country from Dan to BeerSheba⁷² in search of a wife - but Mrs. Farquharson has upset the Coach - I now turn me homewards - and tell you that Angus got Married on 7th Inst - I know nothing of his wife save only her being a respectable servant and of respected parents - before concluding I may say that we have the most severe frost we have had this Season with a deal of snow- Some lots of sheep have come home and are suffering severely - do write as soon as you know anything of my friend - my neighbours here send their regards to you & Katherine joins me in our best wishes to you and family -

Who am your sincere friend A. McIntosh

⁷² Biblical – Chronicles XXI:2



Church at Crathie

1851

James Abercrombie, Jane's father, died January 31 at 74 years of age and was buried in Crathie churchyard near the old, ruined church. An obituary notice in the Aberdeen Journal describes him as "much respected as he was the most extensive Sheep Farmer in the head of this county". On the day following his death Angus writes to Captain Fullerton informing him of the death and telling him that he attended the bedside night and day. He also mentions a strange coincidence. It seems that James Abercrombie and his brother, Donald, ("suitor John's" father died the same week) and the two brothers were laid to rest side by side. Only James Abercrombie has a headstone however. Angus pays James Abercrombie a fulsome tribute: "the death of our friend has thrown a gloom over this county which the keenness of our mountain frosts combined with the sweeping gales of our mountainous locality or the splendour of the meridian sun will not soon dispell." Few could wish a more poetic epitaph.

Unfortunately, there were bitter times ahead. James Abercrombie left a substantial estate of £3,000 and, as he had never married, there were numerous family to gather around. Angus hints at some of the bitterness to come when he tells the Captain that a "meeting of friends" was held where an extract of the will was read. "Some were pleased and some not" is Angus' wry comment. The following month Angus writes directly to Jane worried about an "unaccountable silence" but is now greatly relieved to have received a letter. He assumes that Jane's silence may be the result of her father's death "the object . . . that bound you to your native vale." (In fact, their correspondence was to pick up again and continue until 1868.) In any event, writes Angus, James Abercrombie is "now beyond the reach of sorrow - and we shall shortly follow." Sorrow is on Angus' mind because he is pained that her father's family "instead of lamenting his loss are divided regarding his property." Indeed, there is worse to come. James Abercrombie had always cared for Jane and has made her a beneficiary in his estate and, as his natural daughter, this does not sit well with some other members in the large Abercrombie family. "I said you had no friends here - I repeat it - to their shame." He is anxious that Jane acquire the family sword and a clock that he obviously regards as family heirlooms but this does not happen. The second largest beneficiary of James Abercrombie's will is his favourite nephew cousin John Abercrombie (Jane's old suitor). Angus is discouraged because "wealth alone begets respect now a days" and "morals are at a discount." (Sentiments that have surely echoed throughout the years since.)

Gravestone at Crathie Churchyard, near the side of the ruined church:

James Abercrombie, formerly tenant of Cornalarick and Allanmore, died January 31, 1851 aged 74 years.

LETTERS OF 1851

James Abercrombie's finances in January 1851

Cash on hand	7.0.0
Auction proceeds: crops, farm implements, household furniture, clothes.....	143.5.9
Personal bond owed to deceased by Rev. Archibald Anderson, James Cameron Cumming and Hugh McPherson Cumming, dated 29 Dec 1846 & 2 January 1847	250.0.0
Interest due from Feb 1 1850 to Jan 1851	11.7.9
Principal sum due by John Abercrombie	80.0.0
Principal sum due by James McKenzie.....	20.0.0
Principal sum contained in and due by James Farquarson Esquire of Invercauld accepted Will to deceased dated 1 day of June 1847 and payable 12 months after date	1500.0.0
Interest thereon from the 17th day of June to deceased's death.....	34.10.0
Balance due from account current with the Banking Company in Aberdeen	864.10.1
Interest due	17.5.3
Principal sum due by John McKenzie, Balmore	4.0.0
Principal sum due by John Gruer, Inverey	10.0.0
TOTAL	2942.8.10

February 1, 1851 Glen Clunnie

My Dear Sir

Yours of the 16th. ultimas reached me after a rather serious delay previous to my receiving your note - I wrote a hasty note to Mrs. Fullerton informing her of the death of her uncle⁷³, early on Monday the very day on which his lamented brother⁷⁴ died - he was struck with a paralytic shock which deprived him of speech and all other faculties - I attended his bedside night and day until the Thursday following (when his brother's remains were brought to the trysting place) he died. John reached here early on Thursday morning and left again to meet his uncle's remains. I find that our late friend suffered much from the operation, mortification being the consequence - a number from here met the procession at Kylachrich - Donald McKenzie⁷⁵ Ardoch⁷⁶ having been called to Aberdeen and the conducting of the whole affair was committed to him. On the Saturday following, his brother's remains was carried from here to Crathie finally the two brothers were laid side by side -with their friend departed in the churchyard of Crathie. Need I say that the death of our friend has thrown a gloom over this county which the keenness of our mountain frosts combined with the sweeping gales of our mountainous locality or the splendour of the meridian sun - will not soon dispell. A meeting of friends was held at Ardoch where I understand an extract of the will was read - some are pleased and some not. Your friend was absent. Coldrach⁷⁷ has got all the clothes - to a mite - yet, that mite breeds discontent. I may tell you that the sword was claimed by Coldrach - and was in the act of carrying off when an order from Mr. Roy put a stop to the proceedings. Everything at Allanmore was examined and an inventory taken - D. McKenzie has the charge under Mr. Roy. The whole effects is intended to be ruped at Whitsunday providing no one takes the farm. Should the farm be let the stock will be delivered over at valuation. M.M. is in low spirits. I am sorry I am not in posession of more satisfactory information at present. But if Mrs. Fullerton has not sworn eternal silence I should take pleasure in conveying to her from time to time such further information as comes to hand - there are many things taking place in this country - though not interesting might be amusing (letter is torn at this point). Should this reach you before leaving I hope you will accept of it in absence of better information. Should Mrs. Fullerton write I hope she will be able to say something of your destination. Wishing you all health, a fair wind and a safe return - farewell. With kind regards to Mrs. Fullerton and family, I remain with respect Yours A. McIntosh

⁷³ Donald Abercrombie

⁷⁴ James Abercrombie – father of Mrs Jane Fullerton

⁷⁵ Donald MacKenzie is a nephew of James Abercrombie. The McKenzies once held Dalmore, now Mar Lodge. William Duff of Braco, later the Earl of Fife acquired their lands after the McKenzies borrowed money but could not repay him. They then settled in the Glen Gairn/Crathie area. This is almost certainly one of their descendants

⁷⁶ Definitely Crathie Ardoch a short distance along the Strathdon Road

⁷⁷ Alexander Abercrombie, sole surviving Abercrombie brother

Glen Clunnie March 8, 1851

Dear Mrs. Fullerton

-----for nearly twelve months back our usual friendly communion has been at a low ebb -- often indeed did I tax my memory on purpose - if possible to find anything said or done by me that might have given offence - and so have led to the long protracted silence which I much regretted - guess then how happy I felt on getting your letter couched as it was in friendly strains - be it so - long before my mind was set at ease respecting your unaccountable silence - another wave passed over me - in the loss of that very object - the just cause of our correspondence the object also, in great measure, that bound you to your Native Vale -- has been called from us - was what, nature might teach us to look for but the call was hasty and unlooked for at the time - the loss is not an individual loss - it is to his country a general loss - he wept with them that wept and rejoiced with them that rejoiced in him. I have lost my only Earthly friend but I submit in silence because thou, Lord, has done it - truly hoping that you have - adopted the same resolution - he is now beyond the reach of sorrow - and we shall shortly follow. His suffering was severe - but God in goodness to him cut short the time - we may figure in our own minds - the wound in that delicate part of the body - from which a stone of an oval form was extracted - a stone weighing five ounces and had been accumulating for ten years. Do forgive me for thus tearing afresh the partial healed wound in your bosom - the subject lies heavy on my own mind and now I may tell you though with pain that his friends here instead of lamenting his loss are divided regarding his property - you spoke of the Will - I shall only say - that I had it in so many forms - that I am still at a loss to know the truth. You spoke of the clock M.M. hopes to have it Mrs. Farquharson here must have it John must have it - it will therefore most likely reach its value - I could wish you to claim the Sword it is a first rate ferard⁷⁸ - get both if you can -

There are several candidates for Allanmore - principally Mr. Clarke - John McDonald - Craigie - also the Duke of Leeds is spoken of - it is generally believed that Clarke will have it - therefore I will forbear until my next. I have not been there. We were truly sorry to learn the state of your baby - we hope in your next to ----- more cheering of him - hopes also you will be able to say something of my esteemed friend God willing I shall from time to time give you an outline at least of all that passes here - in the present state of your mind - perhaps I should apologize -but I cannot help giving you a few of the local news of your native land - the last death I reported was in July 1850, John MacDonald - since then I have to report the death of Wm. Grant - Dubrach - Jane Epson - Mary Charles - James Stuart - Mill of Coul - and last week James McGregor ----- Gauld - allow me to reverse the scene - we have married Peter Farquharson to Jane McQueen - Charles Lamont Mill of Coul to Ann McIntosh (Boatie) - Charles Duncan to Jane Stuart dressmaker - James Watson Taylor to Ann Farquharson (Inverey) - Peter Roy to Ann McGregor (his housekeeper) and last but not least Archibald Lamont (tailor and piper) - his enchantress is from Ballater name unknown. Believing that you have been made aware of the death of your cousin James Coutts who died suddenly at Blackhall I have not classed him in my obituary - had it been with you as in days bygone I might go on to inform you several events which had happened - since last time I reported - suffice it at present today that thirty summonses were laid down in

⁷⁸ A make of sword prized by Highlanders. Andrea de Ferrara was a sword maker from Belluno, Italy, many of his swords made their way to Scotland. Plate 16 of the Highlanders of Scotland shows a sword inscribed with his name. We think this is the type of sword that Angus calls "a first rate ferard."

Braemar in one day - for misdemeanor - from one plea to another until Mr. Low is charged out of the Fife Arms. He will be replaced by the Duke of Leed's coachman - but I must have done - with only saying that all friends here are well - we have had a fine winter no snow but little frost. Shall feel glad to hear from you at convenience - I shall not fail to apprise you of every new thing of interest - Catherine joins in her regards to you and family as does also Robbie and Eppie⁷⁹ - with greatest respect - Yours A. MacIntosh

⁷⁹ Robbie is shepherd at Allanmore and Eppie (Elspeth) is his sister or wife

Glen Clunnie April 30 1851

Dear Madam

I have long delayed to answer yours of March last. My reason for doing so was my wishing to collect more matters to interest you - the letting of - the rousing at Allanmore - neither as yet can I say anything regarding these points, perhaps before finishing my letter I shall be able to say something of these matters. You will be surprised to hear that we have a severe storm here at present - but so it is for some days past. Snow has fallen daily. Today, April 30th snow is lying deep around our cottage. On higher ground it is many feet deep - flocks are suffering much.

I thank you for the plain statements - with which you favoured of my late friends will - the contents are making their appearance - John has a fine pony - new saddle and bridle - dines and teas with McLarens, McGregors etc - making a boast of his now being independent - poor John. Your widowed cousin Jannet Abercrombie is about to cast off her widow's weeds. All friends here are well. I have not been to Allanmore as yet. I want nerve to do so - I have seen M.M. once since Feby.

Mrs. McDonald having got settled with her creditors for a dividend of 3/ per pound - she retains her holding. I find that Angus Mitchell is not so fortunate, he is charged out - his roup will be soon - you are aware that his holding was in the name of your father - 100 pounds with interest lyes (lies) there - a round sum lies with Mr Anderson - I am aware that Mr McLaren paid up the whole of the dispenish at first sight - to Mr McLagan - I think it came to 2,800 some odd pounds, thus contrasted with your statement, puzzles me much - help me through if you can have the goodness to say if you have any communication with Cousin James at Dalkeith as I have not heard from him since leaving here. Since I commenced writing I am given to understand that the roup at Allanmore will be 9th of May - I shall not finish my letter til then - by the bye - James Stuart (alias Jamie Ellie) is Laird of Grant Lodge⁸⁰ (Dubrach) - I may also tell you that Robert Ewing carpenter is no more.

May 10th - your reporter goes on to say that the roup of Allanmore was yesterday - all sold off to good purpose. I was not there nor have I been able to gather much of the contents as yet. I have however to inform you that Coldrach bought Jessie, M.M. bought the clock 6 pounds, John Abercrombie the sword 4 pounds - for this last I am sore vexed - in a former letter I said you had no friends here - I repeat it - to their shame. Mr Clark takes possession of Allanmore today - he takes all the hay, all the oats and a lot of the cows and other cattle - thus far only am I able to report - should you desire any further information on that head I shall feel pleasure in satisfying you. Mr Roy did not attend the roup in person and I am sorry for it, neither did McLagan so the whole concern lay with Donald McKenzie - and worthy too - it would be quite out of place was I to speak of the ludicrous manner in which some friends here conduct themselves in these Godless times. Suffice it to say that even the meat and drink used yesterday is considered by them a waste - a loss - indeed with all his faults, Coldrach is the only just man in the whole bunch - Adieu to them all.

I have nothing more of interest to treat you with at this time - we had a heavy snowfall all last week, it is disappearing fast - lambs have suffered severely. Hoping that yourself and young are doing well and that you have heard favourably of my friend, do let me hear of him as soon as convenient. My neighbours begs to be remembered to you - Catherine sends her kind regards to you all - accept the same from your reporter. A McIntosh

⁸⁰ Grant Lodge - The Grants were tenants of Dubrach, a small farm in Glendee. Peter Grant, who died in 1824 was the oldest surviving Jacobite. There is no Grant Lodge and Angus seems to resent the Stuarts taking over Dubrach.

Ault Mhait 29th Oct 1851

Dear Mrs F

Your long looked for letter came to hand in due order of post - and finding therein the cause of delay I do cheerfully forgive - I find that your Native Courage and bouyant Spirit has not forsaken you - I rejoice to hear that - all was then well - (and hope still is) - with the Woodman⁸¹ and her noble Master - I hope she has not been overtaken by the disastrous storms mentioned in the paper you kindly favoured me with - I am only just now, relieved from hill duty⁸² otherwise I should have replied to your kind letter before now - all friends here are well at present - the weather is open and fresh - crops all secured in good Condition the potatoes are not a full crop having suffered by frost, other crops are good --

Sheep and cattle are selling at remunerating prices - Mr Low's Crop at Fife Arms was roused - lately and brought the sum of 140 pounds - the whole crop at Allanmore was taken by Mr. Clark at valuation - the rate I cannot tell -

Dr Haynes having left for Nairn Miss Mitchell has taken his house - you recollect it - she comes to it now - Margaret Mitchell goes to Auchlaveann - Mary Mchardy is with Mrs Clark - Cousin Mary's two oldest daughters goes to Castletown School and lodges with M.M. - Miss Dunbar having got the rout - another female teacher is appointed - Donald Shaw late of Balintium died last week - leaving all his money to the priests - 400 pounds - the interest goes to support his wife - Elspet Gordon - wife of James Robertson Inverey, also died last week - and also Peter Roy Invercauld died - 2nd Septr - his wife and son still remains in the house - Peter Coutts Balnallan succeeds as piper - Alex Stuart is to be relieved from prison. Some days hence he is engaged with his friend at Balna Craig as shepherd - his wife and family join him there.

Cousins John & James are carrying on lively, they bought largely at our market here they are becoming great dealers - two letters from Donald have come to hand lately they were for John and consequently not opened here - I therefore cannot speak of their contents - no doubt they enquire after the needfull - I have never heard from Constable James -

- wealth alone begets respect now a days -
- morals are at a discount - however good - if not combined with plenty of ---- - perhaps by the time you write again you will have heard from our friend - I shall be glad to hear - Also - should I have overlooked anything in this sheet you could have wished me to have mentioned - do speak of it in your next - I will be glad to indulge you - At present I am not prepared with anything more to interest you - I find that M.M. has written twice this Season - or rather she says so - Robbie desires to be remembered to you - Catherine joins with me in kind love to you all

Who am

Your friend and well wisher Angus McIntosh

⁸¹ Captain Fullerton's ship

⁸² Deer watching for the hunting season July to September



Balmoral Castle

1852

In this year Queen Victoria purchased the Balmoral Estate bestowing Royal Approval forever on Scotland. In March Angus mentions "severe gales of wind - and many houses . . . divested of their winter covering"⁸³. Angus speaks for the first time of the "infirmities" of age. He is now 61 years of age. Yet two years later in his diary he notes that he has visited Castletown (Braemar) walking through deep snow with an average depth of four feet until the storm became so severe he has to seek overnight lodging. (Surely not a task for someone overcome with "infirmities" the distance from his home to Braemar being more than five miles.) As always, Angus is anxious for word about the Captain's ship which is at sea again.

⁸³ Many cottages were thatched with heather

Glen Clunnie 3rd March 1852

Yours from Glasgow surprised me - not looking for you in that quarter - however, I was indeed glad to learn the welfare of my friend - and concerns - I have stayed writing till now in hopes to be able to gather something to amuse or interest you - but failing to do so I have just formed the resolve - by a few uninteresting lines - to remove from you any doubts as to our being or not being in the land of the living = yes we are all here - thank God - and in tolerable Condition. We have had severe gales of wind - and many houses in this quarter has been devastated of their winter covering - others who like me were groaning under the ----- age has them leveled with the ground - the forests also has suffered severely - no mistake there - the weather throughout the winter has been on the whole very changeable. Yet our Country remains tolerable healthy - the only death I can report since my last to you is that of Donald McDonald Ellanfearn who died some weeks ago -

And as to marriages the Sly god is seldom bending his bow in this place - - as you are aware your sister was married in Novem - then followed the marriage of Alex'r Ferguson and Hellen Shuan - and last week - was married Alex Cragie⁸⁴ and Margaret McIntosh Inverey - and lastly on Thursday last - Mr Clark Invercauld Arms to Miss Issabeth Davidson an old acquaintance - old Mrs Clark goes to reside with Mrs Gray at the cottage beside the School - I think I formerly told you that James McKenzie Castletown left last autumn for the Cape of Good Hope - he is there still - 100 miles from the seat of War - his reasons for leaving I cannot learn - I have not as yet called on M.M. in her new lodgings - the Misses Farquharsons from New bigging lodges with her - and goes to Miss Crombie's School - they have also been attending a dancing school - your friends at Coldrack are all well - James has been removed to the police station at --- Lodge he never writes me - your Cousins John & James is dealing largely in sheep & is doing well as yet. I have had a letter from Donald he is now tolerably well settled and in a fair way to do well - three of the Misses McGregors has been at home over winter - Eliza left some days ago for Edinburgh - Miss Ann has all but taken the veil - the fortune hunters having all shifted their course - for better and smoother ground and better sport - Mrs John McDonald is doing wonderfully Mr Clark befriends her - John McDonald is with him as cow boy - James is in Invercauld - herself and Charles manages the farm

I much agree with you in having your boys money in your managing if there be no binding as to age - any benefit arising from it belongs to you and as you can have it managed at home - it would be foolish to benefet others for doing so --

-----Old Robbie wishes to be remembered to you and Captain Fullerton - he is very deaf - but quite healthy the two Eppies is still with him.

-----Notice has just come to hand of the death of James McIntosh alias he was game keeper in ----- Perhaps you find it convenient to drop a few lines on some early day - and let me hear something of the Woodman⁸⁵

With our kind love to you all -- believe me -- Yours sincerely
McIntosh

⁸⁴ Alexander's last name is MacDonald, Cragie may refer to his farm

⁸⁵ Captain Fullerton's ship

The weather through out the winter has
 been on the whole very pleasant. Not over
 Country remains tolerably healthy.
 The only death I can yet send you
 last to you - is that of Anna McDonald
Ellen from who died one week ago

And as to marriages the sky goes
 seldom bending his air - in this place
 -- as you are aware your sister --
 was married in Sweden her father
 the marriage of Alex. Ferguson and
Hellen Johnson - and last week - was
 was married - Alex. Craig and Margaret
McIntosh In very - air last by on -
 Thursday last - Mr. Blair Proctor came
 to Miss Elizabeth Garrison an old
 acquaintance - old Mr. Blair goes to reside
 with Mrs. Gray - at the cottage beside the school
 I think I formerly told you that James McIntosh
Castle was left last autumn for the
Cape of Good Hope - he is there still - 100 miles
 from the seat of war - his reasons for leaving
 & I cannot learn



Mar Lodge

1857

There has been a lull in the correspondence and Angus is reviving it now, having sent two letters to Jane. We learn that Jane has suffered a breakdown in health and has been in the country to recover her strength. In April although the season is "somewhat backward" Angus never loses his spirits: "we look for good to come." There are glimpses now of the removals which are sweeping the Highlands. There is a change in the Estate with the death of Lord Eyre and Angus feels that the "tenantry in the Braes of Mar will not profit much by the change . . . many removes are contemplated by the new factor and I have no doubt will be carried into effect for which many are preparing to emigrate . . ."

Glen Clunie April 4th 1857

Dear Mrs Fullerton

After a long interval I have presumed to address your Ladyship a second letter in the fond hope of moving your Ladyship to say something regarding yourself, your husband, and family of which we, and friends here, are so anxious to hear of. You are aware that when you wrote me last, it was from a Country Seat where you had gone for the benefit of your health - I wrote soon after - but since then have lost sight of you altogether. We are very anxious regarding the state of your health - and would be much gratified should you favour us with a few lines to that effect. At same time say something of Captn Fullerton whereabouts. Some time ago I had a Sunderland paper which gave us some hope that you was then living, that hope is again beginning to fail, do revive it. Should this letter reach you safe - you will not find in it much to interest as there are nothing of consequence to report from this quarter - All friends here are well, and doing well but the Season with us is somewhat backward - Our winter was tolerable and Feby very fine time - we had almost continual gales of wind but the month of March has been severe the only March dust has been drifting snow while I write there is much snow even on low grounds - but we look for good to come

-- I am sure you was sorry to hear of the death of John Gruer Inverey - and John Lundie - however you will be glad to learn that both their widows retain their former places, this is pleasant for the sake of their families -

I may say the only topic of the day here is the death of Lord Eyre⁸⁶ and the raising of James Duff to the estates and titles - I am afraid the tenantry in the braes of Mar will not profit much by the Change - many removes are contemplated by the new factor Mr Haney and I have no doubt will be carried into effect for which many are preparing to emigrate - many have already left and many more are preparing to leave - so much for our Country - the flocks are now coming home from winter pasture while the pasture here is covered with snow it is pitiable to look and to see them - there is not a black speck to be seen in all the Baddach but to compensate for that - + + Donald has got a young son - name John - Mrs Farquhar wishes to be remembered to you and Captn F and would be glad to see you in Braemar - she is quite healthy now - John & James has lots of sheep on turnip over winter when fit for the market sends them to Glasgow - they are doing well this Season - I think I told you of Margaret Mitchell being married - she still remains with Mary - Should domestic duties allow you a breathing time - please drop a few lines and remove our anxiety.

Our kind love to you and family
and to Captn Fullerton if at home -
and believe - Your sincere friend
A. McIntosh

⁸⁶ James, 4th Earl Fife, died in 1857 and was succeeded by his nephew James, 5th Earl and son of General Sir Alexander Duff. We are not sure why Angus refers to the 4th Earl of Fife as Lord Eyre.

Mrs Farguhar wishes to be remembered
 to you and Capt. F. and would be glad
 to see you in brasserie. She is quite
 healthy now. John & James has lots
 of sheep on turnips over winter when
 fit for the market sends them to
 Glasgow. They are doing well this
 season. I think I told you of
 Margaret Mitchell being married. She
 still remains with Mary.

— Should domestic duties allow
 you a breathing time — please accept
 a few lines and remove our anxiety

Our kindest love to you and family
 and to Capt. F. & all at home —
 And believe — Your sincere friend

A. Mitchell



*Victoria and Albert in the Scottish Highlands: watching the race in the Laggan Games
Engraving by Landalls, The Illustrated London News 1847
With permission of the Mary Evans Picture Library*

1858

In October the Captain is home from sea and Angus hopes that he will stay ashore and share Jane's burdens of family. However, he is sure that Alexander Fullerton will laugh at his suggestion and call it blarney. ("I hate blarney" declares Angus, as if he himself had never indulged in it.) In fact Angus may have been somewhat intuitive in this matter because it is probable that Jane and her husband were at this time contemplating an enormous change in their lives: they planned to leave England and settle with their family in North America. They proposed to settle in the valley of the Chateauguay River, across the Saint Lawrence River from Montreal, where Jane and her growing family would farm the land and the Captain would base his ship at nearby Lachine and continue his life at sea. They ultimately made this decision and moved to Lower Canada, as it was then known, in 1860.

In the Glen the movement to discover Scotland by the English gentry is well underway. "We have had a very full flow of fashionables this summer." In Angus' household his son, James, is "getting still weaker in body and mind." James dies later at 32 years of age leaving Angus at home with his daughters Catherine and Margaret.

In his diary of this year he pays an interesting tribute to the hero of the Crimea, Sir Colin Campell,⁸⁷ in a neat metaphor. "March," he writes, "came upon us in the same temper as Sir Colin Campbell came upon the mutineers at Cawnpore" referring to the Indian Mutiny.

1858 witnessed the construction of a bridge across the Dee, a mile and a quarter below Invercauld House.

⁸⁷ Sir Colin Campbell led the Highland Brigade at the Battle of Balaklava which repulsed the Russian attack. He was born in Scotland in 1792 and, although one of the ablest soldiers of his generation, lacked social connections for advancement. It took him 30 years to become a Colonel in the British Army and 40 years to become clear of debt.

Glen Clunie 15th October 1858

My dear Mrs F

I confess to my being rather negligent, as your reporter. You will excuse me the rather when I tell you, that I am most punctual to widows. Now that you have cast the weed aside for the time being, all the bonny words I can convey across the water can have but little weight - be it so - I am indeed glad to hear that my friend is at home - and I do fondly hope he will remain so - I do hope he may find some employment on land and so bear a share of that burden which his situation hitherto has necessarily devolved upon you - and which you have born(e) so manfully and so creditably both to yourself and family.

I am aware that when my friend looks over these lines he will laugh and call it blarney - would just beg of him not to wrong an absent friend - I hate blarney. I have been taxing my mind to find something that would suit in this quarter - but No - I still hope he will find something to keep him at home and hopes you will favour me with early notice on which I promise to be a good and punctual boy in future- we have had a very full flow of fashionable(s) this Summer- just figure to yourself, three daily coaches from Ballater and one from Blairgowrie - all well employed and much posting to boot - the weather here has been very backward since the middle of September with cold rains every alternate day - yet we have a full crop secured in good condition - the potatoes is giving way fast in Cornalarick the half is damaged -

- the turnpike is now finished to Castletown the new bridge across the Dee will be opened this Month a new bridge at Castletown is contracted for - there has been 16 deaths in this quarter since your visit last Season - lastly Wm Stuart late of Glen Callater dropped outside of his house & was carried in dead. Same the wife of Peter Lamont Auchindryne dropped in same way. Old Donald McIntosh and wife are gone. Also Duncan McIntosh Weaver - I am sorry to say marriages are at a discount - Births are few - Mr Brown has only baptised two since March - one for Charles Duncan - the other for Christian Mchardy Balloch who seems to follow in the walk of her sisters - by the way, I am glad to say that Mr Brown is one of the ablest preachers I ever heard he is a young man of 30 or so - the Misses seem resolved to keep both farms - Mary manages the farm at Marlie, Ann the Auchalater - the price of the wedders was back this Season - say 2/- per head this has put an additional screw in Ann's face

- I may now tell you that all friends here are well. Cousin John cut a lot with which he has gone to winter pasture, James has done the same - my poor James is getting still weaker in body & mind, the other members of the family are well - hopes this scroll will keep my credit - with you for a long time - While I am writing the surrounding hills are covered with snow - on all the north hills not a black speck can be seen - no wonder my fingers are getting cold - you must therefore rest contented for this time - farewell

Our kind regards to Capt'n F - and family, & to yourself personally and believe me Yours truly A McIntosh



Sample envelope from one of Angus' letters. All letters were written on both sides, except for the back side of the final sheet which was fashioned into the envelope.



*James Bowman & William Brown, Farquharson – Men.
Plate from the Highlanders of Scotland commissioned by Queen Victoria.
The Royal Collection Copyright 2002, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II*

1863

A new letter writer now joins Jane's list of correspondents.....

JAMES BOWMAN

James Bowman was a cousin of Jane Abercrombie Fullerton. He was born in 1814, son of John Bowman and Margaret McHardy. James' father John Bowman and Mrs Fullerton's mother Jean Bowman were the children of William Bowman of Auchtaven on the Invercauld estate. James spent many years as a gardener first at Glendoig and then at Balloch Castle in Dunbartonshire. In 1837 he was called home to take over his father's duties as keeper of Ballochbuie Forest. In 1868 the forest was leased by Queen Victoria to become part of the Balmoral Estate. James stayed on as keeper. He never married and resided with a spinster sister Jane who was also in service to the Queen as a housekeeper.

James Bowman is identified in the "Highlanders of Scotland", a volume commissioned by the Queen, as belonging to the following of Lieutenant-Colonel Farquharson of Invercauld. He was one of two men selected to represent Farquharson men in the portrait painted by Kenneth Macleay.

Bowman was well-known and liked by both Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. He was their guide on their first ascent to Lochnagar in 1848 and frequently guided the Queen and attended the Prince as a deer stalker.

It is apparent that Bowman knew Captain Fullerton well, probably meeting him first when the Captain came to hunt in the Glen and first met Jane, an occasion which led eventually to their elopement.

early 1863

(First page missing)

I will next call your notice to Mr. and Mrs. Leys in which I am sorry to add, that the wife is very much indisposed at present, in fact she has not been keeping strong since she left the Inver she got heart-broken leaving the place. She had a paralytic stroke before she left the Inver then had a second attack before going of it after going down. She will never overcome it, at present she can scarcely speak, she will never be so strong again. I suppose you never wrote here though I gave you her address. I wrote Jamie after I came home I was to go this spring but then my two sisters was up throughout the summer. Ann is residing within 6 miles of Leys⁸⁸. Amelia is near Benachree⁸⁹. I was calling upon D. McKenzie Ardoch on my way coming from Don side and right kind they were. I was never in the house before, I saw the eldest daughter that got married to D. Lamont Mason. They took a trip to this locality during the summer months from the Orkneys. He has bought some property since he made his fortune out in Australia, he is some 20 years her senior but money will cover a multitude of faults, but he is worthy of a good wife any of the ways. I regret to state that my brother William departed this life on the 20th November last with a stroke of apoplexy. He was keeper to a gentleman 10 miles out of Glasgow. The eldest son has taken a house for his mother in Glasgow. He is in a shop there. Our Laird died⁹⁰ same week they were both brought up together about Invercauld boys and about the same age but we all know that resignation to unfailing omnipotence which directs all things right is an imperative duty neither with him is there any respects of persons. The mortal remains of our much respected Master was taken from London to Braemar church yard for interment on the 27 of November all the Cromar tenants met the hearse at Ballater and the up through tenants at Inver and a great many met at the Bridge of the Dee. There were 16 of us got a suit of mournings and my aged father amongst the rest. I took a vehicle from Mr. Fisher the morning of the funeral. He went up and met the hearse at the church yard to pay the last respects to the remains of his Master consigned to its resting place. This is now the third generation my father has seen laid in the family vault. There was about 170 of us got dinner at Fisher's. Six of the sons came with the hearse but immediately after everything was over they upt for Edinborough that same night. It's not known yet what changes may take place. The Colonel is still in the army. I hear whispers that he is going to let Invercauld for 5 years to the Prince of Wales and serve out his commission in the army and then get his pension and save a good deal of money besides. It will keep him bare before he can pay of all their portions. Nine sons and 4 daughters. None married poor girls and fearful they will stand a bad chance now and that would be the great pity all of them prepossessing but have not money enough. I must tell you that I got a surprise when I received Jane's⁹¹ marriage cards on November 23. I could not divine who sent me them until I saw her maiden name upon the fold of the envelope so I wrote her instanter. I had a letter from her lately, both seem to be quite happy. She said that very probably they would take a jaunt down to see us all sometime in the summer. She desires me to write you a bushelfull of news. The Prince of Wales is

⁸⁸ Leys is at Crathes near Blanchory (not Crathie)

⁸⁹ Benachree may probably be Bennachie, a well known hill near Inverurie, Aberdeenshire

⁹⁰ Wall plaque in the Invercauld vault in the Braemar Churchyard:

James Farquharson of Invercauld born April 25, 1808, died November 20, 1862.

Erected by his eldest son Lt. Col. Farquharson, Scots Fusilier Guards.

⁹¹ Jane Fullerton, daughter of captain and Mrs Fullerton, did not emigrate to Canada and now plans to marry a Scottish sea captain

going to join the bonds of holy matrimony on 10th of March. I see stated in the papers. I sent a paper to Janie (Jamie?). It is likely you would have gotten it in November. Father's compliments as he is keeping as lively as a kitten now 94. Jane sends kind love to you all. Give my best wishes to Allister and the sons, not forgetting my namesake my ----- do write soon or ----- of your sons. With kind love from your affectionate cousin, J. Bowman



1868

Sadly, this is the year we leave Angus McIntosh. His letter of January, 1868, is the last letter of his that Jane preserved for us. Angus is now 79 years of age and his Glen has changed beyond recognition from the Glen Clunnie to which he first introduced us in 1839. Physically there have certainly been changes. A turnpike was opened between Braemar and Ballater in 1859 and remained a toll road until 1866. A new road was constructed through the Glen to the top of Cairnwell: "a new road along our quiet Glen" notes Angus in his diary. At the same time, his love for the Glen is undiminished. "Our Glen has a vast majestic appearance" is a notation in the harsh winter of 1859. But it is in the people of the Glen that Angus' world has changed forever. So many neighbours and friends he knew have left Glen Clunnie. There are many "dool days" and "still they go" Angus remarks in his diary. In the end, he tells Jane "we live solitary here now - Cornalarick is shut Coryaltie is shut Newbigging is shut old Robbie's house is shut." He thanks Jane for her kind remembrance "and at such a time! - I have been three months off work and provisions high in price." But indomitable as ever, Angus noticed that Shrove Tuesday "passed unheeded in Glen Clunnie" the year before. He is determined that will not happen again in 1868. On February 25 his diary declares: "This is Shrove Tuesday. It was kept in the good old style at Allt-mhait, what with eating, drinking, music, vocal and instrumental, dancing, etc., the lone folk of the lone Glen of Clunnie enjoyed themselves to a late hour. The night was fair and pleasant for the home-going." Jane and the Captain would have enjoyed sharing this festivity in the Glen but by this time they are established on the other side of the Atlantic and life has not been easy for them. In 1866 they lost their eldest son, Alexander, who had come home after some hard years at sea following his father's footsteps. He was drowned in a sailing accident during a summer storm. It is only now, two years later, that Angus apparently learns this sad news. But it is still the same between Angus and Jane. Angus opens his last letter to Jane with the words: "Often have I done myself the unlimited pleasure of addressing you." It is the same for all of us who have shared in the long correspondence between Angus McIntosh and Jane Abercrombie Fullerton.

Ault Mhait 30th January /68

My dear Mrs Fullerton

Often have I done myself the unlimited pleasure of addressing you - and never was at a loss to express - myself - but at present I confess I am quite lost for expressions to convey to you the gratitude I owe you for your kind remembrance (and at such a time! - I having been three months off work) and provisions high in price - I therefore beg to offer you my warmest thanks - do also excuse my being so long in acknowledging your kindness - I was not in condition to do so - you will also excuse me in not writing at this time so full as I could wish to do - I don't feel equal to do what my heart bids me do - but if I am spared - and my hand get better - (it was bruised) you shall as formerly have all the ups and downs worth sending across the water - as regards your friends that went abroad - little is known of them - save only that Mary and her husband are doing well - Ann & family is not so fortunate - and James has never been heard of - Mary advertised him some three years ago - but to no effect - you are aware that Margaret is a widow - she has acted foolishly as regards her share of the dispenish sale⁹² at Coldrack thinking that she should get more - She entered the law and lost involving herself in law expenses to a sad amount - some hundreds in the effects of the sale both families shared alike - say 15 pounds - each - but James' share must remain for some time untouched - Uncle John buys in some sheep in the fall - winters them and sells them off early in the Season - then comes to Coldrack - remains until (1) September - I am not aware of the windfall you mention in your letter - he is sadly broken down - Mrs McKenzie still lives but is confined to her room on hearing of James' death. So soon after Mrs Miller. She retired to private life Heriot⁹³ is still with her -

We live solitary here now - Cornalaric is shut Coryaltie is shut Newbigging is shut old Robbies house is shut = only one man in the baddoch - John McIntosh is in the New Lodge⁹⁴ - the Lodge is built oposite the gate of the tup park

Angus and family is still in the same place in Ireland he has five of a family - M. & Kate is with me. M Mitchell is in the same house is well and doing well - I had the pleasure of a call from Captn & Mrs MacKay when here I showed them your letter which was returned from Montreal. They were much surprised. Mrs MacKay kindly addressed the envelope enclosing this - we have fine open weather here at present very little snow - we sympathised very much with you on learning of the death of your son - mind us to Capn Fullerton - with many thanks to you - I am most gratefully - A. McIntosh

⁹² A dispenish sale is a roup or auction

⁹³ Heriot probably means Harriet

⁹⁴ New Lodge - Glen Clunie Lodge, demolished post WWII

— Aunt Abigail & B. J. Perry
 My Dear Mrs. Williston — 1868

— Often have I done
 myself the unlimited pleasure
 of addressing you. And never
 was at a loss to express —
 myself — but at present I
 confess I am quite lost for
 expressions to convey to you
 the Gratitude I owe you for
 your kind remembrance —
 (And at such a time —
 I having been three months
 off work)
 And since provisions high in price
 — I therefore beg to offer you
 my warmest thanks — do
 also excuse my being so long
 in acknowledging your kindness
 = need. I was not in condition to
 (do so)



Castletown of Braemar – from a mid nineteenth century gazetteer of the region.

1870

The 1870 letter is a bit of a mystery. It is written by Jane's old suitor (her father's favourite nephew), is not addressed to Jane. It is sent by John Abercrombie to his brother about the death of their sister. Quite a bit of John's character shows in this letter. Jane did well to bypass her father's choice of husbands and elope with Alexander Fullerton. How John Abercrombie's letter ended up in Canada is unknown.

Coldrach Braemar 28th May 1870

My Dear Brother

I am to write you this letter to let you know with sorrow that our sister Mary died here on Friday morning 13th of this month at 9 o'clock. She lay 10 days in great pain and died with her senses to the last moment, many a word she had of you to me for many years back and said you was a cold brother to her and she would be always greeting when she spoke of you. She was a kind sister to me & every other person. She had got a stamp from the Post Office some days before she lay to put on a letter to you. She was to send you a letter but she was not spared to do it and it is the same stamp that I put on the letter I have sent to you that your Sister had got to put on her letter. She was buried in Crathie and she happened to go in our father's grave. He was buried 19 years past in January. I laid her head in the grave and her son John laid her feet. I have been very ill about my sister for she was the only home that I had. I will miss her more than her own Family. I write this to you Donald with great sorrow for the want of my sister and she was the only comfort I had. I was not present when my sister died for I could not bide to hear her Craying (crying). I was up at Newbigging with Jean's two little daughters, keeping them and Jean was with her Mother till 8 o'clock that morning that she died and she thought her a little better and she came up to see how we was doing and to return in a little bit but about 10 o'clock word that she was at her rest and Jean was very ill not to be with her at the last. Old Angus happened to be down and he was the person that dressed her after her death and his daughter Margaret made her grave clothes. It was a Bigg Brake⁹⁵ we had from the innkeeper at the Funeral. We put the coffin in the bottom of the Brake along with it we left here quarter past 10 in the forenoon and was back here at quarter past 3. Old Angus was here almost all the time she was a corpse and was here when we came back from Crathie. John and Jane is very ill about their Mother but James and the other three daughters you would not know it much affecting them. James had no appearance of being sorrow.

You are always wanting me to come and bide with you but if you do not think that would be a burden upon you and you think I would take with the Country, I think that when I have lost my Sister that I might come and stop with you and your wife. I would be helping to do a little work. I cannot do longer here for I am not able to stand out in the winter with sheep and I am not able to travel the hills after the sheep and to work stadey (steady) I cannot do for I am not strong, I had wine about a hundred and fifty pounds this three or four winters but last winter I lost about a hundred and twenty pounds which makes me very down hearted the sheep did not feed for they took the disease in the feet and destroyed them altogether. You can send me word and tell me what you think of me coming, John Farquarharson wants you to send word how he would do to come where you are if you had work for him. He is a splendid worker and can do a great many things in the right work which would save a good deal of money to them that had a farm - he is very good natured - him and Jane but the rest I do not think so much of them. Jane is very good to me.

There is little news in the country that I can send to you. I have been unwell this three or four weeks past but it made me worse thinking about my Sister when we wrote our brother James of his Sister's death he send us word that he could not come for he was not well in health him nor the Wife. He is even weaker than me but his wife is very good to him which is a great help for him. He has lost a good deal of money on Sheep he tells me this last winter and everyone lost, the winter was so frosty and the nips rotted and the

⁹⁵ Large wagon used as a hearse

feet of them all so bad. Mary McGregor has given Glencalletter to William Gordon Glenmuck and the sheep was valued the other day. The old sheep was 33/ and the young Wedders 27/ the Hogs 18/ he has all Glen Calletter and Corvow and Newbigging. I need not say any more or I hear from you and if you think of me or John Farquaharson coming to you we will make way for to come. They all send their respects to you and we will be happy to hear from you soon. I am your affectionate Brother, not forgetting your Wife with us all. John Abercrombie

There is little news in the Country that I can send to you I have been on well this three or four weeks past but it made me worse thinking about my sister when we wrote our Brother James of his sister's death he send us word that he could not come for he was not well in health: him nor the Wife he is even weaker than me but his Wife is very good to him which is a great help for him he has lost a good deal of money on Sheep he tells me this last winter and every one lost the winter was so frosty and the sheep rotted and the feet of them all so bad, Mary McGregor has given Glencalletter to William Gordon Glenmuck and the Sheep was valued the other day the old Sheep was 33/ and the young Wedders 27/ the Hogs 18/ he has all Glen Calletter and Corvow and Newbigging I need not say any more or I hear from you and if you think of me or John Farquaharson coming to you we will make way for to come. They all send their respects to you and we will be happy to hear from you soon. I am your affectionate Brother not forgetting your Wife with us all. John Abercrombie



BALLOCHBOWIE FOREST

Ballochbowie Forest – home of James Bowman

1871

James Bowman and Captain Fullerton carry on a friendship through letter writing. Their opposite lifestyles must have interested each other. James Bowman had a comfortable living on the Balmoral estate of Queen Victoria, no more than a few miles from his birthplace. Captain Fullerton traveled widely to Canada, England and India with his ship.

Ballochbuie July 31 1871

My dear Sir

I have just been sitting here the room for this last couple of hours with my back to the window, my legs with full stretch upon two chairs, sometimes reading, sometimes thinking and then making a general digest of the whole, whilst enjoying the soothing and soporific influence of that narcotic member of the vegetable kingdom which the vulgar plodding plebeian community call tobacco. I just said to myself why not stir to work and answer Captain Fullerton's letter which I received on the 7th of this month, and was glad to hear you were still in the body, by Jove you have seen some life this two years back. Your wife will not know you when you go home. The last letter I had from you I think was from Liverpool in August, 1866. I can see Mrs. Fullerton has got my letter. I mentioned to send me a newspaper when my letter arrived which accordingly she did send me The New York Clipper giving an account of the great match between Jim Mace and Geo Coburn. I will write her a few lines ----- before my busy time comes on, our Queen is coming to Balmoral on the 15th of August - it would be quite unnecessary of my sending you this news of their locality which would ----- to you quite unimportant it's just a case in point I tell you as you do not know any of the people, Your guoudam friend A. McIntosh⁹⁶ is still in the body - he carries his age well but he is now beginning to succumb to nature. He is one of our elders - some Sabbaths he is unable to attend. His two daughters are both at home with him and his son Angus is in Ireland as gardener he has been there some 16 years. I saw your old rival the other day John Abercrombie, poor man he is far through with it now old age is lying fast on him. I have lost sight thoroughly of Mr. and Mrs. MacKay⁹⁷ I have not heard from Mrs. MacKay since she came from Canada. The Captain is a very jolly nice fellow a tar to the backbone. J. Coutts is keeping about ----- usual three sons all grown up now. I would be very glad to see you but in justice speaking should you come to Aberdeen you have not strong inducement to come the distance. My sister is getting stouter step by step the only fear I would have if it be thoroughly cut out. The Queen when she left in June left her a bottle every day of brown stout Porter until her return in August then her doctor will call on her. She directed me to send her kind love, she was to say compliments but being such a common phrase she scorned to use it so I repeat it again kind love, meanwhile with best wishes, believe me my dear Sir, most sincerely yours, J. B.

⁹⁶ Angus McIntosh is 83 years old at this time

⁹⁷ Jane Fullerton's daughter, whose husband is also a sea captain, John MacKay

Ballochbuie July 31. 1871

My Dear Sir

I have just been sitting here the room for this last couple of hours with my back to the window, my legs with feet stretched upon two chairs sometimes reading sometimes thinking & then making a general digest of the whole, whilst enjoying the soothing & soporific influence of that narcotic material of the vegetable Kingdom, which the vulgar phlegmatic & benighted community call Opium. I wrote said to myself why not stop to work and answer Captain's letter which I received on the 27th of this month, and was glad



Cornalarick, Glen Clunie 1998 – photo by John Duff

EPILOGUE

Today when you enter Glen Clunie it is a lonely place. A far cry from the Glen which Jane Abercrombie knew growing up, or Alexander Fullerton knew when he came to hunt, or James Abercrombie knew when he settled at Cornalarick, or his neighbour across the river knew when he taught Jane in his school. Then, there were probably more than 150 inhabitants and it is, after all, a small Glen (only nine miles from the pass at Cairnwell to Braemar at the other end close to where the Clunie flows into the Dee).

The visitor today sees more sheep than people. If you come up Glen Shee and enter from the south, the first glimpse of the Clunie is a small, rock-strewn stream you could ford by stepping across from stone to stone. As you travel north, the Clunie picks up pace as it is joined by small burns cascading down the hills into it until it becomes a respectable river when it runs through Braemar.

Although lonely, somehow the Glen is not forbidding. It is wide and the hills roll softly back from the valley floor. Up a little from the road one can find the peat beds which Angus, and the other inhabitants, cut for winter warmth. And looking up higher, one can see the patches of heather.

But the farms which Angus mentions are almost all in ruins, or "larachs", as they say in the Highlands. One needs a knowledgeable guide to locate these sites now and be prepared to tramp a distance away from the road. The tourist coaches speeding past have Balmoral on their minds. Overnight, perhaps, in Braemar before moving on to Victoria's great Estate with only a glance out the window at the Glen they are passing through. Of course, they don't know any of the stories which are hidden there among the abandoned homesteads in the Glen.

Angus McIntosh lies now in Braemar cemetery a short walk from Belnallen where he was born. His beloved Cairngorms surround the cemetery and the mists often lie low on the hills, probably just as Angus would have liked. Vigorous in body as well as mind, we know from his diary that at age 64 he walked 42 miles over the hills, driving stirks. We also know that he was still teaching school at 85 years of age and left his last class on a February afternoon to walk home through the snow. He died two weeks later on March 5, 1873.

If one travels up the Dee, cross the river at the Linn on the bridge Victoria had enjoyed so much, and then walk back toward Braemar it is possible to find Allanmore, James Abercrombie's last home but only a pile of stones marks the place now. The view at Allanmore is gentler than in the Glen and the Dee more winding than the Clunie. Deer are plentiful here and almost always in sight and the land seems marshy below the shelf of the road.

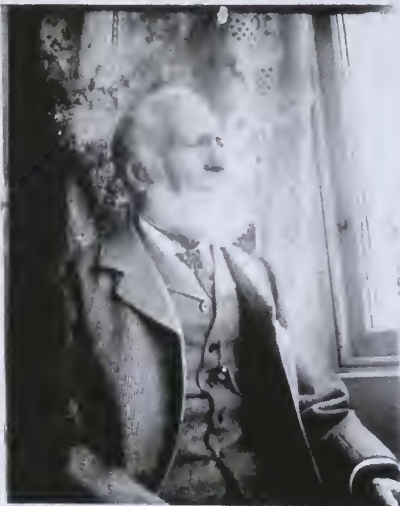
James Abercrombie we think was very content there in his last years with his household around him. How he accumulated his considerable wealth we do not know for sure, although there are hints that he had money to lend and certainly people were in debt to him when he died. But Allanmore was not a happy place after his will became known. Jane's inheritance followed her to North America and she kept the letters received from the Bank and the lawyers as the interest on her inheritance was paid.

There had been Abercrombies in the Braes of Mar for many a year and James Abercrombie has not left his "native vale." He lies buried in the old churchyard at Crathie in the shadow of the ruined church as does James Bowman. While in his seventies James Bowman suffered a fatal accident while attempting a favour for the Queen. The diary of John Michie, Factor at Balmoral, records that Bowman was seeking white heather to pick as a tribute to Queen Victoria. Crossing back over a high deer fence he became entangled

in the wire at the top and fell backwards with his head on the ground. John Michie reports that he hung in this position from 3 pm until he was discovered at 11 am the following day. Bowman was carried to his cottage but died almost immediately. Michie found the sprigs of white heather at the scene of the accident "which the Queen asked for and I gave to her." The Queen was greatly moved and requested that the Factor meet her at the site of the tragedy. In the evening Princess Beatrice, Prince Henry, Christian Victor and the Grand Duke of Hesse also visited the site, "after which the Queen drove up to the spot . . . and proposed to build a small cairn." The inscription on the Queen's memorial reads "Placed here by the Queen whom he served faithfully for seventeen years." The Queen Victoria attended the funeral procession when James Bowman was buried in the churchyard at Crathie.

Captain Alexander Fullerton pursued his long career at sea and we have a photograph from late in his life - a handsome face with a beard, sharply trimmed, and turning grey. His eyes seem to be fastened on a horizon we do not see, a seaman's gaze perhaps. At Chateauguay a charming story remains told by a very old lady who remembers him as a girl in school. "Captain Fullerton," she wrote many years ago, "was a school trustee and it was only when he visited the school that I saw him . . . a tall rather angular man . . . he mostly joked with the teacher and the children . . . but the fact that he was an outstanding character and a sea Captain impressed me even as a child." She also recalled that he was a "good, kindly man and as he was a little better educated than most of the men, he was given public duties like being a school trustee."

The Captain returned to Scotland after Jane's death. In fact, he returned to Stonehaven where his life with Jane had begun. He lived in a house facing the harbour with the North Sea just beyond the breakwater. There he remarried but died within a year and now is buried in the Churchyard at Dunotter (close to the famous "Covenanters' stone") near the Church where the banns for his marriage to Jane were read so many years before.



Captain Alexander Fullerton



Mrs Jane Fullerton & family

Jane Abercrombie Fullerton had become involved in the land, establishing a farm on the broad and fertile Chateauguay valley close to where the river enters Lac Saint Louis, a widening of the mighty Saint Lawrence River, at what was then called

Chateauguay Basin. (The old village now is submerged in the suburban environs of Montreal which lies across the river.) Jane had with her to help with the farm, after Alexander left for the sea, her remaining three sons, James, William and John. Two other boys had died in infancy in England. Her daughter, now Mrs Jane McKay remained at Sunderland, but traveled to Canada on her husband's ship, S. S. St. Patrick, to visit her parents at their Chateauguay home. (While enroute on this voyage a son, Alfred, was born, delivered while crossing the Irish Sea by the ship's surgeon.) This grandson was baptised in the Presbyterian Church of Beauharnois, Chateauguay Basin, Canada East in August, 1866.

The only picture of Jane which survives is a photograph from this last period of her life. Now a matronly lady whose face under her Victorian bonnet seems to be in complete repose, her eyes looking at us with a calm, steadfast gaze. No longer the young woman, probably eager for adventure beyond the Glen, who had left the Highlands so long ago. There is a small cemetery, called the "Old Protestant Cemetery," tucked away on a quiet bend of the Chateauguay River. It too is surrounded by suburban streets, but Jane's place in it is both quiet and commanding. Her grave stone is a tall shaft of pink granite, marked "Jane Abercrombie Fullerton." Close by is an older stone with an inscription which the weather has almost erased, marking the grave of young Alexander who had returned from the sea. Both graves stand at the top of a knoll where the grass sweeps down toward the bend of the river.



WORDS

¹ from the Concise Scots Dictionary, Polygon, 1999.

² from John E. M. Duff, Braemar

<u>ain guid</u>	own good
<u>auld</u>	old ¹
<u>Bashan</u>	A reference to "strong bulls of Bashan" in Psalms 22 Verse 12.
<u>bear</u>	barley
<u>ben</u>	1. inner rooms of a house, the best room 2. mountain ¹
<u>boatie</u>	ferryman
<u>boll</u>	dry measure of weight varies with region, approx. 140 lbs ¹
<u>boul (bool)</u>	1. bow legged person ¹ 2. derogatory term when applied to a person
<u>Braemar Royal Highland Society</u>	comprises about an equal number of Farquarsons and Duff men. It originated in a Friendly Society formed at Braemar in 1817, which in 1837 became the Highland Society, and subsequently had the term Royal added to it. The roll of members includes several of the royal family. The annual gathering takes place in September at Braemar.
<u>brose</u>	a dish of oats (or peameal), boiling water (or milk), salt and butter ¹
<u>brose caps</u>	a wooden porridge dish for brose
<u>caro</u>	?
<u>ceann</u>	Gaelic for head, often used in place names. ²
<u>chin-cough</u>	cough ¹
<u>conjoint</u>	shared ¹
<u>corrie</u>	a hollow in the side of a mountain or between mountains. ¹
<u>craigie</u>	neck ¹
<u>cronnie</u>	friend ²
<u>crossing the Bar</u>	can refer to death
<u>cut your sticky</u>	this may mean break off contact. ²
<u>Dan to BeerSheba</u>	a Biblical reference referring to all the tribes of Israel, meaning everyone, all the people of all the tribes. Chronicles XXI:2
<u>domonie</u>	school teacher or clergyman ¹
<u>Employ</u>	Captain Fullerton's ship circa 1840 - 1846
<u>factor</u>	a person hired to manage property for its owner ¹
<u>Febry</u>	February
<u>feeing market</u>	a market held on Whitsunday and Martinmas where farmers engage servants for the coming term ¹
<u>ferard</u>	A make of sword prized by Highlanders. ² Andrea de Ferrara was a sword maker from Belluno Italy, many of his swords made their way to Scotland. Plate 16 of the Highlanders of Scotland shows a sword inscribed with his name. We think this is the type of sword that Angus calls "a first rate ferard."
<u>garand</u>	possibly means garden or ground ²
<u>German Ocean</u>	the North Sea
<u>gimmers</u>	year old ewes ¹
<u>glen</u>	valley with a stream ¹
<u>gude yule day</u>	Christmas
<u>gudeman (guidman)</u>	person of rank or standing ¹

WORDS

<u>ilka</u>	each, every, of two or more, the same ¹
<u>lno</u>	an old Scots abbreviation of John ²
<u>ist.</u>	ist after a date means in the current month
<u>kirk</u>	church
<u>Lapland</u>	Finland
<u>littleman</u>	affectionate term of address as to a small boy, or can mean one at the bottom of the pile as opposed to top dog. John Duff thinks Angus is referring to a boy, in Aberdeenshire farm boys were commonly referred to as halfins (half a man). ²
<u>loon</u>	1. rascally servant ¹ 2. boy ²
<u>luckie</u>	married woman, and many other definitions ¹
<u>luvie</u>	sweetheart ¹
<u>marques</u>	Angus means Marquis, a caustic nickname ²
<u>Martinmass</u>	November term day when tenancies change hands, November 28 th ²
<u>Mary Morcce</u>	possibly a ship to the New World
<u>Muckle</u>	very large
<u>na</u>	not
<u>nae</u>	not
<u>Non Intrusion</u>	the dissenters that broke away from the Church of Scotland in 1843
<u>Nons</u>	short form for Non Intrusionists
<u>Nossdeue</u>	this may possibly be a corruption or variation of adieu.
<u>parr</u>	young salmon ¹
<u>peats</u>	peat bog cut and dried and used for fuel in the Scottish Highlands.
<u>quays</u>	heifers, young female cows ²
<u>roup</u>	a public sale or auction ¹
<u>rush</u>	scarlet fever ¹
<u>seid</u>	seed
<u>sheiling</u>	1. high remote summer pasture 2. shepherd's hut ¹
<u>sory</u>	sorry
<u>spats</u>	short gaiters at the ankle, in common use last century
<u>spittal</u>	hospice
<u>splicing</u>	getting married ²
<u>St. Swithins</u>	July 15 th . St Swithin was an English saint, but St Swithin's day is often referred to here in a proverb regarding the weather.
<u>sticky</u>	premature end ¹
<u>stots</u>	young castrated ox, a bullock ¹
<u>strae</u>	straw ¹
<u>stron</u>	(Strone) Gaelic for ridge or nose, often used as a place name ²
<u>superior</u>	feudal superior, usually the laird ²
<u>the Low South</u>	the low country to the South ²
<u>the royal Cheese</u>	Editors are unable to locate this reference
<u>threaves</u>	1. measure of cut grain usually 12 sheaves 2. large quantity or crowd ¹
<u>trysting</u>	prearranged place and time, an appointment ¹
<u>tug rug</u>	tug o' war ²
<u>turney</u>	Editors are unable to locate this reference
<u>ult.</u>	ultimo, a date in the preceeding month
<u>unco</u>	1. unknown 2. scarcely recognised 3. peculiar 4. uncouth ¹
<u>Venture</u>	Captain Fullerton's second ship first mentioned 1846
<u>viz</u>	videlicet, namely ²
<u>wedders</u>	castrated young male sheep

WORDS

Whitsunday

wi

Woodman

the opposite term day to Martinmas, May 28th²
with

Captain Fullerton's ship first mentioned 1851

PLACE NAMES

The information in this section is based on the very informative and well researched book titled "The Place Names of the Upper Deeside" by Adam Watson & Elizabeth Allan, Aberdeen University Press.

<u>Abdn</u>	abbreviation for Aberdeen
<u>Aberdeen</u>	principal city in Aberdeenshire, at the mouth of the river Dee on the east coast of Scotland
<u>Aldowrie Cottage</u>	probably Alltdourie the home farm of Invercauld
<u>Allanmore</u>	a cottage and former farm west of Braemar, named from the nearby An t-Ailean Mor (the flat marshy ground west of Braemar). Low ground and easily flooded by the Dee
<u>Allanquish</u>	(Allanquoch) a farm taking its name from Ailean Choich, the big flat area where the Quoich joins the Dee west of Braemar. The farm is west of Allanmore.
<u>Alyth</u>	a village in Perthshire
<u>Ardoch</u>	a farm in Crathie, another in Glen Gairn
<u>Auchalater</u>	means field of the hard water, a farm in Glen Clunie
<u>Auchindryne</u>	(Auchendryne) field of the thorn, former farm at Braemar, went along with the Fife Arms Hotel, was opposite the hotel. This part of the Braemar village west of the Clunie was on the Duke of Fife's estate.
<u>ault Lait Glenney</u>	a stream in Glen Ey
<u>Ault Mhait</u>	(Alltamhait) former farm beside the burn of Allt a' Mhaide (burn of the piece of wood, referring to a small bridge with a plank or log). Ault Mhait is opposite Cornalarick in Glen Clunie. Pronounced 'Alt Veetsh', rhymes with 'beach'
<u>Aultdownie</u>	(Alltdownie) the former factor's house
<u>Backwater</u>	perhaps Blackwater which is south of Glen Clunie, over the mountain pass to Blairgowrie
<u>Baddach</u>	(Baddoch) means place of clumps, a disused farm up Glen Clunie and a general name for the grazings in the glen and hills to the south west of the farmstead.
<u>Badenoch</u>	a district in Strath Spey
<u>Balinduim</u>	(Balintuim) means farm town of the hillock, a former farm south of Braemar beside a prominent hillock.
<u>Balinloin</u>	(Baile an Loine) town of the wet meadow, a former farm now part of Braemar golf course.
<u>Ballater</u>	town approximately 16 miles east of Braemar
<u>Balloch</u>	formerly a settlement in the Aberarder
<u>Balmoral</u>	village and castle

PLACE NAMES

<u>Balna</u>	(Balnoe) near Balmore in the Aberarder
<u>Balna Craig</u>	Balnacraig is a farm on the mid Deeside
<u>Blackhall</u>	an estate in the Blairgowrie area (also a former estate near Banchory).
<u>Blairgowrie</u>	a good sized town approximately 35 miles south of Glen Clunie.
<u>Boat house</u>	(Boat Farm) a farm west of Crathie, near a former ferry on the Dee.
<u>Braegaric</u>	now called Braegarrie at Corriemulzie, there were several houses there at the time of these letters.
<u>Braemar</u>	means upland of Mar, used to be a parish, now part of the joint parish of Crathie and Braemar. The current village of Braemar consists of two parts Castletown and Auchendryne.
<u>bridgend Castletown</u>	the castle end of the Clunie bridge. The part of Braemar still called Kindrochie.
<u>Brucetown</u>	not located
<u>Cairna Chuines</u>	Carnaqueen
<u>Cairnwell</u>	a hill between Glen Clunie and Glen Shee.
<u>Cammis</u> (Camas na Ciste)	A former farm at a bend of the river Clunie south of Braemar. Same location as Balanloun, but Camas was also a small estate.
<u>Castletown</u>	The part of the current village of Braemar east of the Clunie, on the Invercauld estate.
<u>Castletown of Braemar</u>	another name for Braemar
<u>Ceann</u>	Gaelic for head or end, often used in place names.
<u>Clunnie</u>	now spelled Clunie on ordnance survey maps. Means flat grassy plain.
<u>Clunnie Cottage</u>	a former farm at Invercauld on a big flat grassy area. This is a different Clunie or plain from the one at Glen Clunie. Near Invercauld bridge.
<u>Coldrach</u>	means great hillock, a former farm in the lower Glen Clunie.
<u>Coryaltie</u>	(Coireyaltie or Corghealtie) A former farm below Coire Yaltie in Glen Clunnie.
<u>Cornalarick</u>	(Coire na Larig) means corrie of the hill pass. The hill pass was an old track from Cornalarick to Glen Ey. A former farm in upper Glen Clunie.
<u>Corriemulzie</u>	means corrie fit for driving a mill, a small settlement east of Inverey.
<u>Corriemulzie Cottage</u>	Mar Lodge, an estate house west of Braemar. It was burned to the ground in the 1890s and replaced with the current house.
<u>Corrymulzie</u>	same as Corriemulzie (above)
<u>Craig Maddie</u>	(Creag a' Mhadaidh) means rocky hill of the dog, in upper Glen Clunie.
<u>Craig Mattie</u>	Same as Craig Maddie

PLACE NAMES

<u>Crathie</u>	the parish next to Braemar and now part of the combined parish of Crathie and Braemar. The old parish church (now ruined) is beside the Dee behind the parking area for Balmoral Castle.
<u>Crathy</u>	see Crathie
<u>Croidh-bhoan</u>	(Creit a' Bhothain) a former farm near Invercauld
<u>Cromare</u>	near Tarland, the sheepfold of Mar, now Cromar
<u>Dalagowing</u>	(Dalgowan or Dalagowan) A house west of Braemar
<u>Dee</u>	The Dee is the river that flows past Braemar castle, and on to Aberdeen. The Clunie is a tributary of the Dee
<u>easter Auchalater</u>	a half mile north of Auchaleter farm
<u>Edinburg</u>	Edinburgh, capital of Scotland
<u>Ellanfearns</u>	(Eilean Fearn) a former island on Clunie at Braemar, but now part of the west bank as the river has changed course.
<u>Falkirk</u>	town near the end of the Firth of Forth in Stirlingshire
<u>Felegie</u>	(Felagie) means slow bog stream, a former group of houses east of Invercauld, at the west end of Aberarder
<u>Ferrar</u>	a farm at Dinnet, just west of Aboyne. It may have been a small lairdship at this time
<u>Fyfearms</u>	now the Fife Arms Hotel in Braemar
<u>Glasgow</u>	major city in Scotland
<u>Glen Calader</u>	means glen of hard water, now Glen Callater
<u>Glen Clunnie</u>	(Glen Clunie) means glen at a plain
<u>Glen Corrie</u>	not located
<u>Glen Isla</u>	Geln in Angus to the east of Glen Shee
<u>Glen Shee</u>	The glen to the south of Glen Clunie, over the mountain pass (now a ski resort) from the back of Glen Clunie
<u>Glen Ey</u>	south of Invereye, west of Braemar
<u>Grampians</u>	a name for the hill ranges of central Scotland often including the Cairngorms and hills north of the Dee. Now used to describe a large area of the Scottish highlands
<u>Gray House</u>	not located
<u>Greenock</u>	a town in north west Renfrewshire on the firth of Clyde
<u>Inver</u>	means the stream mouth, former farm, now the Inver Inn
<u>Invercauld</u>	means mouth of the hard stream, the estate of the Farquharson family
<u>Invercauld House</u>	the Farquharson family seat. Farquharsons are part of Clan Chattan
<u>Inveredrie</u>	was a small estate between Braemar and Blairgowrie, now a farm
<u>Inverey</u>	referred to the flat ground where the Ey meets the Dee but now denotes the village west of Braemar
<u>Jock's Lodge</u>	presumably in the Edinburgh/Musselburgh area
<u>Kenstrary Lodge</u>	possibly located in Aberdeen
<u>Kerrymuine</u>	Kirriemuir in Angus

PLACE NAMES

<u>Kirk Michael</u>	the neighbouring parish in Perthshire. Tomintoul in Banffshire is also in a parish named Kirk Michael
<u>Kylachreach</u>	(Coilacriech Inn) an old coaching inn about 3 miles west of Ballater
<u>Laggan</u>	Inverness-shire, north east of Fort William
<u>Livate</u>	Glen Livet
<u>Loch Rannoch</u>	a lake in Perthshire
<u>Lublea</u>	Luiblea, a house at the west end of loch Lagan in Inverness
<u>Mar Lodge</u>	see Corriemulzie Cottage
<u>Marley</u>	(Marlee) a former Farquharson estate in Perthshire.
<u>Milltown</u>	there are several Milltowns or Milltouns
<u>Newbigging</u>	means new building, former farm in Glen Clunie
<u>Spittal</u>	(Sean Spittal) spideal means hospice, old and new spittal were inns in Glenshee. Old Spittal is now a farm
<u>Rannoch</u>	a loch in Perthshire
<u>Ridoray</u>	Rhiedorrach OS
<u>Stonehaven</u>	formly a seaport town about 50 miles from Braemar
<u>Strathavon</u>	in Banffshire
<u>Strathdone</u>	Strathdon in Aberdeenshire
<u>Strathmore</u>	in Angus
<u>Strone</u>	a farm at Baddoch, or alternately it is Gaelic for ridge or nose, often used as a place name for a ridge or hill attached to a larger hill
<u>Sunderland</u>	an English sea port
<u>Tamintoul</u>	(Tomintoul), one of a group of cultivated fields and crofts on the shoulder of Morrone (a hill of 2819 ft). There is a village of the same name in Banffshire. Dec 1845 letter refers to the Banffshire village.
<u>Tominrachtan</u>	a hillock in Auchindryne, now called Tomrichton. The first wooden Free Church in Braemar was erected below the hillock. The site is currently occupied by the parish church.
<u>Tominrightan</u>	see above
<u>Uist</u>	the islands of South and North Uist in outer Hebrides, from whence came the new parish minister.

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Will of James Abercrombie, 1851

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SURNAME INDEX

Notes:

There may be more than one reference to the same person in a single letter.

If we were not sure of the last name, its referenced under both possibilities.

Some people are referred to in the letters by their nicknames, for instance Craigie John.

A “y” means that we’ve filled in last name or based it on a nickname.

We could not possibly reference all the Abercrombie cousins. If you are looking for Abercombies, I’m afraid you need to read all the letters. The same applies to Robbie and Eppie who are members of the household. We believe their last name may be Ewing.

name	letter	Notes
Abercrombie), cousin Donald	Nov 22, 1843	
Abercrombie), cousin James	Jul 5, 1841	
Abercrombie), cousin James	Feb 12, 1850	
Abercrombie), cousin James	Apr 30, 1851	
Abercrombie), cousin John	Mar 2, 1849	
Abercrombie), cousin John	Oct 15, 1858	
Abercrombie), cousins John & James	Oct 29, 1851	
Abercrombie), cousins John & James	Mar 3, 1852	
Abercrombie), Donald	Oct 21, 1839	
Abercrombie), Donald	Feb 7, 1841	
Abercrombie), Donald	May 28, 1870	
Abercrombie), Donald	Dec 9, 1839	
Abercrombie), Donald	Mar 3, 1852	
Abercrombie), Donald	Oct 14, 1843	
Abercrombie), Donald	Oct 29, 1851	
Abercrombie), Donald	Apr 4, 1857	
Abercrombie), James	May 15, 1843	
Abercrombie), James	Mar 30, 1850	
Abercrombie), James	May 28, 1870	
Abercrombie), James	June 17, 1848	
Abercrombie), John	Mar 2, 1849	
Abercrombie), John	May 28, 1870	
Abercrombie, Alexander) Coldrach	Apr 30, 1851	
Abercrombie, Alexander) Coldrach	Feb 1, 1851	
Abercrombie, Andrew	Mar 30, 1850	
Abercrombie, Donald	Feb 10, 1840	
Abercrombie, Duncan	Dec 9, 1839	
Abercrombie, James	May 5, 1843	
Abercrombie, James	May 22, 1847	
Abercrombie, James	Mar 30, 1850	
Abercrombie, James) Constable James	Oct 29, 1851	
Abercrombie, Jannet	Apr 30, 1851	
Abercrombie, Jas.	Dec 27, 1844	
Abercrombie, John	June 17, 1848	
Abercrombie, John	Mar 30, 1850	
Abercrombie, John	Apr 30, 1851	
Abercrombie, John	July 31, 1871	
Adam	Nov 21, 1847	

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Aitken, John	July 8, 1843	
Allister	1863	
Anderson, Mr	Feb 10, 1840	
Anderson, Mr	Aug 14, 1843	
Anderson, Mr	May 5, 1843	
Anderson, Mr	Apr 30, 1851	
Anderson, Mr.	Sept 14, 1848	
Angus	May 5, 1843	
Ann	Oct 15, 1858	
Ann	Jan 30, 1868	
Ann, Miss	Mar 3, 1852	
Athol, Duke of	Sept 14, 1848	
Atken, John	May 5, 1843	
Auchalater family	July 8, 1843	
Auld Donald	Mar 17, 1841	
Barron, John	July 8, 1843	
Bob	Oct 17, 1845	Probably a horse.
Bowman), Amelia	1863	
Bowman), Ann	1863	
Bowman, John) my aged father	1863	
Bowman, William	1863	
Brown, Mr	Oct 15, 1858	
Brown, Mr	Oct 15, 1858	
Brown, Sally	Jul 27, 1845	
Calder, Mary	Oct 18, 1848	
Cameron, Mr.	Dec 9, 1839	
Campbell, Charles	Oct 17, 1845	
Cattanach, Amelia	Dec 27, 1844	
Cattanach, Donald	Mar 15, 1847	
Cattanach, Frances	Feb 7, 1841	
Cattanach, James	Feb 7, 1841	
Cattanach, Margaret	Mar 30, 1850	
Cattanach, Mr	Mar 17, 1841	
Charles	Mar 3, 1852	
Charles, Mary	Mar 8, 1851	
Clark, Mr	Apr 30, 1851	
Clark, Mr	Mar 3, 1852	
Clark, Mr	Mar 3, 1852	
Clark, Mr.	Oct 29, 1851	
Clark, Mrs	Oct 29, 1851	
Clark, Mrs	Mar 3, 1852	
Clarke, Miss	Dec 27, 1844	
Clarke, Mr.	Mar 8, 1851	
Coburn, Geo	July 31, 1871	
cousin Mary	Oct 29, 1851	
Coutt, Jas.	Oct 21, 1839	
Coutts	Mar 20, 1844	
Coutts, J.	July 31, 1871	
Coutts, Jamie	Nov 21, 1847	
Coutts, Jas.	Mar 20, 1844	
Coutts, Margaret	Nov 22, 1843	
Coutts, May	Oct 18, 1848	
Coutts, Peter	Oct 29, 1851	
Craigie John	Oct 18, 1848	
Crombie, Miss	Mar 3, 1852	
Cumming, Duncan	Dec 27, 1844	
Cumming, Mrs	Feb 10, 1840	
Davidson, Miss Issabeth	Mar 3, 1852	
Downie, William	Aug 4, 1846	
Downie, Wm	Nov 21, 1847	

SURNAME INDEX

Drummond, Revd Mr.	Nov 21, 1847	
Duff, General	Dec 27, 1844	
Duff, James	Oct 15, 1842	
Duff, James	Apr 4, 1857	
Dunbar	Feb 10, 1840	
Dunbar, James	Jul 5, 1841	
Dunbar, Miss	Feb 12, 1850	
Dunbar, Miss	Oct 29, 1851	
Duncan, Charles	Dec 11, 1840	
Duncan, Charles	Mar 8, 1851	
Duncan, Charles	Oct 15, 1858	
Duncan, John	Jul 27, 1845	
Duncan, John	June 17, 1848	
Duncan, Mrs	Feb 10, 1840	
Duncan, Peter	June 17, 1848	
Dunross, Lord	Feb 7, 1841	
Egga, Annie	May 5, 1843	
Eggo, Angus	June 17, 1848	
Eggo, Ann	May 15, 1843	
Eggo, Ann	Nov 21, 1847	
Eggo, Donald	June 17, 1848	
Eliza	Mar 3, 1852	
Ellie, Jamie	Apr 30, 1851	
Emslie, James	Dec 11, 1840	
Eppie	Jul 5, 1841	
Eppie	Mar 15, 1847	
Eppies	Mar 3, 1852	
Eppie's Rover	Dec 9, 1839	Probably a sheepdog.
Epson, Jane	Mar 8, 1851	
Ewing, Mr. Robert	Apr 3, 1847	
Ewing, Mrs.	May 22, 1847	
Ewing, Robert	Feb 25, 1842	
Ewing, Robert	Apr 30, 1851	
Eyre, Lord	Apr 4, 1857	
Farquhar	Jul 5, 1841	
Farquhar, James	May 5, 1843	
Farquhar, James	Mar 15, 1847	
Farquhar, James	Nov 21, 1847	
Farquhar, Margaret	May 15, 1843	
Farquhar, Mrs.	Mar 15, 1847	
Farquhar, Mrs.	Nov 21, 1847	
Farquharson) The Colonel	1863	
Farquharson), James	May 28, 1870	
Farquharson), Jean	May 28, 1870	
Farquharson), John	May 28, 1870	
Farquharson), Mary	May 28, 1870	
Farquharson), Mary	Feb 12, 1850	
Farquharson, Ann	Mar 8, 1851	
Farquharson, Helen	Feb 7, 1841	
Farquharson, James	July 8, 1843	
Farquharson, John	Feb 10, 1840	
Farquharson, Mary	Feb 12, 1850	
Farquharson, Mr.	Sept 14, 1848	
Farquharson, Mr.	Mar 30, 1850	
Farquharson, Mrs	Feb 10, 1840	
Farquharson, Mrs	Apr 4, 1857	
Farquharson, Mrs.	Jul 27, 1845	
Farquharson, Mrs.	Mar 30, 1850	
Farquharson, Mrs.	Mar 8, 1851	
Farquharson, Peter	Mar 8, 1851	

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Ferguson, Alex'n	Mar 3, 1852	
Ferguson, Betty	Jul 27, 1845	
Fisher, Mr.	1863	
Fraser, Bell	May 5, 1843	
Fraser, Charles	July 8, 1843	
Fullerton), Jane	1863	
Gordon, Elspet	Oct 29, 1851	
Gordon, Elspeth	Mar 20, 1844	
Gordon, Patrick	1843 (Spring)	
Gordon, Patrick elder	Feb 25, 1842	
Gordon, William	May 28, 1870	
Grant, Hellen	Dec 9, 1839	
Grant, Jane	Nov 22, 1843	
Grant, Mey	Dec 11, 1840	
Grant, Miss	Dec 23, 1848	
Grant, Robert	Dec 27, 1844	
Grant, Robert	Dec 27, 1844	
Grant, Robert	Nov 21, 1847	
Grant, Wm.	Mar 8, 1851	
Gray, John	Dec 27, 1844	
Gray, Mrs	Mar 3, 1852	
Gruer, William	July 8, 1843	
Gruer, Ann	Oct 18, 1848	
Gruer, Donald	Feb 12, 1850	
Gruer, John	Aug 14, 1843	
Gruer, John	Oct 26, 1844	
Gruer, John	Nov 7, 1846	
Gruer, John	Feb 12, 1850	
Gruer, John	Apr 4, 1857	
Gruer, Margaret	Oct 17, 1845	
Gruer, Miss	Dec 27, 1844	
Haney, Mr	Apr 4, 1857	
Haynes, Dr	Oct 29, 1851	
Haynes, Dr.	Dec 23, 1848	
Hendry	Jul 5, 1841	
Her Majesty and Consort	Sept 14, 1848	
her uncle	Feb 1, 1851	
Heriot	Jan 30, 1868	
Hopeton, Lord	Feb 7, 1841	
Howieson, Thomas	Dec 23, 1848	
Howison, Mr.	Nov 7, 1846	
Invercauld, family of	Oct 15, 1842	
Jack	Oct 26, 1844	
James	Jan 27, 1849	
James	Oct 15, 1858	
James	Mar 3, 1852	
James	Mar 3, 1852	
James	Jan 30, 1868	
James	Jan 30, 1868	
Jamie	1863	
Jamie	1863	
Jane	1863	
Jannet	Mar 20, 1844	
Jess	Oct 17, 1845	Possibly a horse?
Jessie	Apr 30, 1851	Possibly a horse?
John	Mar 8, 1851	
John	Oct 29, 1851	
John	Apr 4, 1857	
John & James	Apr 4, 1857	

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John Thompson	Oct 15, 1842	
Joset, Duncan	July 8, 1843	
Joset, Mrs.	July 8, 1843	
Kirst	May 5, 1843	Probably a sheep.
Laird of Grant Lodge Dubrach	Apr 30, 1851	
Lamont	Jul 27, 1845	
Lamont, ?Robertson?	Dec 11, 1840	
Lamont, Alex	Feb 12, 1850	
Lamont, Charles	Mar 8, 1851	
Lamont, D.	1863	
Lamont, Elizabeth	Dec 27, 1844	
Lamont, Peter	Oct 15, 1858	
Larson, Mrs Ino	Feb 10, 1840	
Leeds, Duke of	Mar 8, 1851	
Leys, Mr. and Mrs.	1863	
Lhuan?, Jane	May 5, 1843	
Lovie, Mr	Aug 14, 1843	
Low	May 5, 1843	
Low, Mr	Oct 29, 1851	
Lundie, John	Jul 5, 1841	
Lundie, John	Apr 4, 1857	
M. & Kate	Jan 30, 1868	
MacDonald, Hellen	Feb 10, 1840	
MacDonald, John	Mar 8, 1851	
MacDougald, Belle	July 8, 1843	
Mace, Jim	July 31, 1871	
Macfarlane, Revd. Mr	Feb 10, 1840	
MacKay, Capt'n & Mrs	Jan 30, 1868	
MacKay, Mr. and Mrs.	July 31, 1871	
MacKintosh, John	June 17, 1848	
Macrostie	Nov 10, 1849	
Margaret	Jan 30, 1868	
Martha	Oct 29, 1851	
Mary	Apr 4, 1857	
Mary	Oct 15, 1858	
Mary	Jan 30, 1868	
Mary	Dec 11, 1840	
Mason, D. Lamont	1863	
McArthur, Mr.	Mar 15, 1847	
McB---, Mr.	July 8, 1843	
McDonald, Alex	Nov 22 1843	
McDonald), Alex	Mar 3, 1852	
McDonald, Charles	May 22, 1847	
McDonald, Charles	Feb 12, 1850	
McDonald, Donald	Mar 3, 1852	
McDonald, John	April 19, 1842	
McDonald, John	Nov 21, 1847	
McDonald, John	Aug 4, 1846	
McDonald, John	Mar 8, 1851	
McDonald, John	Mar 3, 1852	
McDonald, Miss E	Aug 14, 1843	
McDonald, Mrs John	Mar 3, 1852	
McDonald, Mrs.	Nov 21, 1847	
McDonald, Mrs.	Apr 30, 1851	
McDonalds	Oct 15, 1842	
McDondald, Charles	Sept 14, 1848	
McDondald, Christian	Mar 20, 1844	
McDougald, Bell	Oct 18, 1848	
McGregor	Apr 30, 1851	
McGregor	Aug 4, 1846	

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McGregor, James	Mar 8, 1851	
McGregor, Mary	May 28, 1870	
McGrigors, Misses	Mar 3, 1852	
McHard, George	Feb 10, 1840	
McHardy	April 19, 1842	
McHardy, Christian	Oct 15, 1858	
McHardy, Donald	Mar 12, 1842	
McHardy, Donald	Oct 21, 1839	
McHardy, George	Apr 27, 1841	
McHardy, George	Aug 4, 1846	
McHardy, Herriot	Dec 11, 1840	
McHardy, James	May 5, 1843	
McHardy, Janet	Dec 9, 1839	
McHardy, Jannet	April 18, 1840	
McHardy, John	Nov 22, 1843	
McHardy, John	Oct 26, 1844	
McHardy, John	Aug 4, 1846	
McHardy, Mary	Mar 2, 1849	
McHardy, Mary	Mar 2, 1849	
McHardy, Mary	Oct 29, 1851	
McHardy, Peter	Dec 27, 1844	
McHardy, Wm	Oct 18, 1848	
McIntosh), Angus	Mar 2, 1849	
McIntosh), Angus	Mar 30, 1850	
McIntosh), Angus	May 28, 1870	
McIntosh), Angus	Jan 30, 1868	
McIntosh), Angus and Margaret	Mar 2, 1849	
McIntosh), Catherine	Jun 14, 1845	
McIntosh), Margaret	Mar 2, 1849	
McIntosh), Margaret	May 28, 1870	
McIntosh, A.	July 31, 1871	
McIntosh, Alex	Dec 9, 1839	
McIntosh, Alexr.	May 5, 1843	
McIntosh, Angus	Mar 15, 1847	
McIntosh, Ann	Jul 27, 1845	
McIntosh, Ann	May 22, 1847	
McIntosh, Ann	Mar 8, 1851	
McIntosh, Bell	May 5, 1843	
McIntosh, Charles	June 17, 1848	
McIntosh, Donald	Oct 15, 1858	
McIntosh, Duncan	Oct 15, 1858	
McIntosh, James	Mar 3, 1852	
McIntosh, John	Feb 7, 1841	
McIntosh, John	April 19, 1842	
McIntosh, John	Sept 14, 1848	
McIntosh, John	Jan 27, 1849	
McIntosh, Kate	Feb 10, 1840	
McIntosh, Margaret	Apr 27, 1841	
McIntosh, Margaret	Mar 3, 1852	
McKenzie	Dec 9, 1839	
McKenzie	Oct 17, 1845	
McKenzie), James	Jan 30, 1868	
McKenzie, Peter	1843 (Spring)	
McKenzie, Chas.	Jul 27, 1845	
McKenzie, D.	1863	
McKenzie, Donald	Dec 23, 1848	
McKenzie, Donald	Feb 1, 1851	
McKenzie, Donald	Apr 30, 1851	
McKenzie, Duncan	Mar 12, 1842	

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McKenzie, Elizabeth	Apr 3, 1847	
McKenzie, James	Feb 10, 1840	
McKenzie, James	Jul 27, 1845	
McKenzie, James	Mar 3, 1852	
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McKenzie, John	Dec 27, 1844	
McKenzie, Mrs	Jan 30, 1868	
McKenzie, William	Feb 25, 1842	
McLagan	Apr 30, 1851	
McLagan, Mr	Apr 30, 1851	
McLagan, Mr.	Jul 27, 1845	
McLagan, Mr.	May 22, 1847	
McLaggan, Mr.	Apr 3, 1847	
McLaggan, Mr.	June 17, 1848	
McLaggans, Mr	Nov 10, 1849	
McLaren	Apr 30, 1851	
McLaren	Nov 7, 1846	
McLaren	June 17, 1848	
McLaren (Rannoch)	Mar 15, 1847	
McLaren, Mr	Feb 12, 1850	
McLaren, Mr	Apr 30, 1851	
McLaren, Mr.	May 22, 1847	
McQueen, Ann	Oct 17, 1845	
McQueen, Jane	Mar 8, 1851	
McQueen, Mr	Nov 22, 1843	
Mcqueen, Mr	May 5, 1843	
Mcqueen, Mr	Feb 12, 1850	
McQueen, Mr.	July 8, 1843	
McQueen, Mr.	Mar 15, 1847	
McRae	Nov 22, 1843	
McRae, Mr	May 5, 1843	
McRea, Mr	Aug 14, 1843	
Metack, Margot	Dec 11, 1840	
Miller Mr George	Apr 3, 1847	
Miller, John	Dec 11, 1840	
Miller, Mrs	Jan 30, 1868	
Miller, Widow	Mar 2, 1849	
Mitch, Elizabeth	Dec 11, 1840	
Mitchell, Angus	Nov 21, 1847	
Mitchell, Angus	Jan 27, 1849	
Mitchell, Angus	Apr 30, 1851	
Mitchell, Clementina	Jul 27, 1845	
Mitchell, Elisabeth	Apr 3, 1847	
Mitchell, Elizabeth	May 22, 1847	
Mitchell, M	Jan 30, 1868	
Mitchell, Margaret	Jan 27, 1849	
Mitchell, Margaret	Oct 29, 1851	
Mitchell, Margaret	Apr 4, 1857	
Mitchell, Mary	Feb 10, 1840	
Mitchell, Mary	Oct 15, 1842	
Mitchell, Mary) M. M.	Jan 27, 1849	
Mitchell, Mary) M.M.	Oct 29, 1851	
Mitchell, Mary) M.M.	Feb 1, 1851	
Mitchell, Mary) M.M.	Apr 30, 1851	
Mitchell, Mary) M.M.	Apr 30, 1851	
Mitchell, Mary) M.M.	Mar 3, 1852	
Mitchell, Miss	Oct 29, 1851	
Mitchell, Mr	Nov 22, 1843	
Mitchell, Peter	May 5, 1843	
Mitchell, Widow	Mar 2, 1849	

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Ninety-third Highlanders	Sept 14, 1848	
Ogilvie, Captain	Sept 14, 1848	
Ogilvie, Mr	Dec 11, 1840	
Ogilvie, Mr.	Dec 9, 1839	
Old Annie	Jan 27, 1849	
old Robbie	1843 (Spring)	
Our Laird	1863	
our Queen	July 31, 1871	
Parker, Mrs.	Feb 25, 1842	
Prince of Wales	1863	
Rannoch	Mar 15, 1847	Refers to McLaren from Kinloch Rannoch
Rannoch	June 17, 1848	
Rattray, Ann	1843 (Spring)	
Reith, Mr & Mrs	Dec 11, 1840	
Reith, Mrs	April 19, 1842	
Rieth, Mrs	May 15, 1843	
Robbie	May 22, 1847	
Robbie	Jul 5, 1841	
Robbie	Mar 17, 1841	
Robbie	Mar 15, 1847	
Robbie	Feb 7, 1841	
Robbie	Mar 2, 1849	
Robbie	May 28, 1849	
Robbie	Oct 29, 1851	
Robbie	Mar 12, 1842	
Robbie	Apr 3, 1847	
Robbie	Nov 21, 1847	
Robbie	June 17, 1848	
Robbie	Mar 2, 1849	
Robbie	Feb 12, 1850	
Robbie	Mar 3, 1852	
Robertson, James	Nov 22, 1843	
Robertson, James	Oct 29, 1851	
Robertson, Jas.	Mar 20, 1844	
Roy, Alan Peter	Oct 29, 1851	
Roy, Jane	Nov 22, 1843	
Roy, Mr	April 19, 1842	
Roy, Mr	Apr 30, 1851	
Roy, Mr.	Oct 17, 1845	
Roy, Mr.	Feb 1, 1851	
Roy, Peter	Mar 30, 1850	
Scott, Mr.	June 17, 1848	
Shaw, Alexr.	May 15, 1843	
Shaw, Alexr.	May 5, 1843	
Shaw, Donald	Aug 4, 1846	
Shaw, Donald	Oct 29, 1851	
Shaw, James	May 5, 1843	
Shaw, James	May 5, 1843	
Shaw, John	Aug 4, 1846	
Shaw, John	Sept 14, 1848	
Shaw, Mrs. John	Feb 25, 1842	
Sheriffs, Dr	Feb 12, 1850	
Smith, Jannet	Jan 11, 1847	
Smith, Miss	Dec 23, 1848	
Smith, Mr.	Mar 20, 1844	
Struan, Helen	Mar 3, 1852	
Stuart, Alex	Mar 30, 1850	

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Stuart, Alex	Oct 29, 1851	
Stuart, Charles	Dec 27, 1844	
Stuart, Isabella	May 22, 1847	
Stuart, James	Apr 30, 1851	
Stuart, James	Oct 18, 1848	
Stuart, James	Mar 8, 1851	
Stuart, Jane	Mar 8, 1851	
Stuart, Jessie	Mar 20, 1844	
Stuart, Mr.	Nov 7, 1846	
Stuart, Mrs) Muckle Jane	Feb 25, 1842	
Stuart, Mrs. (Muckle Jane)	1843 (Spring)	
Stuart, William	Nov 10, 1849	
Stuart, William	1843 (Spring)	
Stuart, Wm	Oct 15, 1858	
the Marquis	May 22, 1847	
the old Sheriff	Apr 3, 1847	
Thomson, John	Dec 9, 1839	
Uncle John	Jan 30, 1868	
Uncle's wife	Dec 9, 1839	
Watson, James	Mar 8, 1851	
Watson, Mary	Feb 12, 1850	
Watson, Miss Mary	Jan 11, 1847	
Watt, Jane	July 8, 1843	
Watt, Jean	Dec 9, 1839	
Young, Lord	Feb 25, 1842	
your uncle (Donald's) wife	April 18, 1840	
your cousin Donald	May 15, 1843	
your Mother	Mar 12, 1842	
your sister	Mar 3, 1852	
your uncle (Donald's) wife	Feb 7, 1841	
your Uncle (Donald's) wife in Coryaltic	Mar 12, 1842	
your uncle Donald	Feb 12, 1850	



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